People

August 21, 2023

One Year Later

Olivia Newton-John

Her Husband & Daughter on the Star's Last Days and Enduring Legacy

Lizzo Under Fire

What's Next After Harassment Allegations

People Exclusive

Luke Bryan

'I'm Proud of My Climb to Get Here'

The country superstar and *American Idol* judge hustled for more than a decade to make it big. How he faced adversity with unshakable optimism—and is now paying it forward

NEW!

UPGRADE DINNER WITH STOUFFER'S SIDES.

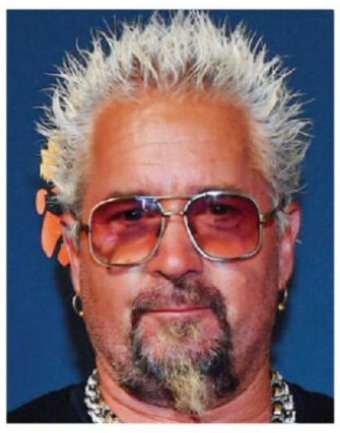
Stouffer's®

HAPPYFULL®

chatter

'Just saying... could be the new mayor of flavour town. Or should I say... 'Flo'ver town'

– FLORENCE PUGH, comparing her new hairdo to Guy Fieri's, on Instagram



'I throw Royce up in the air until she giggles. I tickle her, and I help put her to bed. She just melts my heart'

– REBEL WILSON, explaining that her favorite part of her day is coming home to her 9-month-old daughter, to *People*

'Every night I'm thinking about how the world now is going to react to this moment that I'll have with whoever I'm choosing to sing to'

– USHER, on serenading Keke Palmer onstage and going viral, to *People*

'I've got a lot to learn. But I know a few things about winning'

– TOM BRADY, on becoming a co-owner of Birmingham City Football Club, on Instagram

'I keep showing my kids pics to prove how cool I used to be, but for some reason they don't seem to get it'

– BEN McKENZIE, looking back at his time on *The O.C.* in honor of the show's 20th anniversary, on Instagram

'All I know is, at a certain point, I made eye contact with my 8-year-old daughter who is standing at the foot of the bed'

– KELLY RIPA, recalling the time daughter Lola walked in on her and husband Mark Consuelos having sex, on her *Let's Talk Off Camera* podcast

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: JON KOPALOFF/GETTY IMAGES; JOSE PEREZ/BAUER-GRIFFIN/GC IMAGES; DIA DIPASUPIL/GETTY IMAGES; PARAS GRIFFIN/GETTY IMAGES; MEDIAPUNCH/BAUER-GRIFFIN/GC IMAGES; DENISE TRUSCELLO/GETTY IMAGES; DAVE BENETT/GETTY IMAGES

Scan to See More
Pets are domestic abuse survivors, too.
Purina helps create more safe spaces for domestic abuse survivors and their pets so they can escape and heal together.
PURINA
CARES
HERE.
PURINA TRADEMARKS ARE OWNED BY SOCIÉTÉ DES PRODUITS NESTLÉ S.A.

5 Things We're Talking About *this week!*

The retelling features songs by musician Ingrid Michaelson

1

The Notebook: The Musical is heading to Broadway

Get your tissues ready. A new song-filled adaptation of the bestselling novel by Nicholas Sparks and beloved film starring Ryan Gosling and Rachel McAdams opens in spring 2024.

2

Cindy Crawford re-creates her iconic Pepsi commercial

The model traded the cola from her 1992 Super Bowl ad for a Casamigos margarita in That Chick Angel's "One Margarita (Saucy Remix)" music video.

3

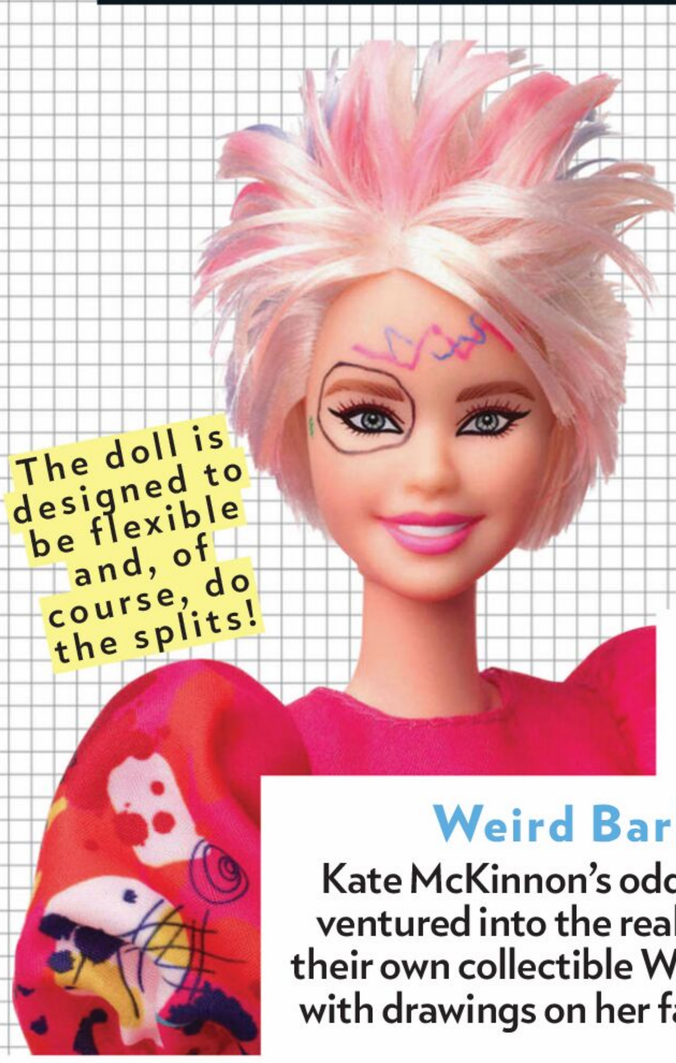
Bed Bath & Beyond is back

Overstock bought the bankrupt retail chain and relaunched it online. Don't look for those once-ubiquitous mailbox coupons, but there are discounts on its app.

4

Hoda Kotb's children's book

The *Today* show host's second children's book, *Hope Is a Rainbow*, is inspired by her 4-year-old daughter Hope (right), whom she calls a "beautiful, incredible, magical child."



The doll is designed to be flexible and, of course, do the splits!

5

Weird Barbie is for sale

Kate McKinnon's oddball *Barbie* character has ventured into the real world. Fans can preorder their own collectible Weird Barbie doll—complete with drawings on her face—for $50 until Aug. 18.

(THE NOTEBOOK) ALAMY; (CRAWFORD) PEPSI/GETTY IMAGES; (BED BATH & BEYOND) GETTY IMAGES; (BARBIE) MATTEL; (MCKINNON) WARNER BROS.; (KOTB) JAKE CHESSUM

August 21, 2023

contents

Vol. 100 / No. 8

36 Da Brat
The rapper shares her baby joy. Plus more inspiring family stories.

54 Angel Carter Conrad
Aaron Carter's twin sister speaks out about her brother's addiction.

60 Hip-Hop Turns 50
Artists celebrate the genre's cultural impact.

On the Cover

30
Luke Bryan

13
Lizzo

46
Olivia Newton-John

This Week

13
Scoop
Inside Lizzo's shocking lawsuit, Meghan Markle celebrates her birthday with Prince Harry, Leah Remini sues the Church of Scientology—and more celebrity news

44
Killer Husband?
Police say James Craig fatally poisoned his wife, Angela, to start a new relationship

46
Olivia Newton-John
The late *Grease* star's husband and daughter open up about grief and how they are keeping her legacy alive

50
Jesse Williams
The *Grey's Anatomy* alum shares his unlikely path to success

58
Bethany Joy Lenz
The *One Tree Hill* actress on how writing her memoir is helping her heal after leaving a cult

ON THE COVER
Photograph by Jim Wright. Insets, from left: Mark Sullivan Bradley; Emma McIntyre/Getty Images

30
Luke Bryan, smack in the middle of a hot summer tour, looks back on his journey to country stardom.

CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: DAVID REDFERN/REDFERNS/GETTY IMAGES; YURI HASEGAWA; DEREK BLANKS; JIM WRIGHT; ARI & LOUISE; HAIR: MITCHELL RAMAZON; MAKEUP: TAYLOR FITZGERALD; STYLIST: LIZZY ROSENBERG

Tell Your Family Story

My mother is a bit of a minimalist. Clothes you haven't worn in a year? Out they go. Childhood artwork? Choose one favorite, toss the rest. And heaven help you if you leave anything on the dinner table—she comes through cleaning so fast you'll be searching for it in the trash.

So when she was ready to downsize to a smaller place, I thought packing up wouldn't be that hard. It was. No matter how young or old you are, we could all do a little more Swedish death cleaning.

But as my sisters and I went through the closets and boxes, we found a few treasures. Some we expected: the multiple popcorn bowls from family movie nights. The same-day photos of our parents' college graduation and wedding. We can all recite the story of how they managed both in the span of mere hours because their parents couldn't afford to travel for two celebrations.

Found in my mother's scrapbook: a signed photo of Betty White.

Other finds surprised us: an 1853 steerage ticket for a distant aunt when she emigrated from Scotland. Autographed photos of Betty White and Perry Como. My mother's scrapbook, which detailed how early in their marriage my parents waited by the mailbox day after day for their teaching certificates—or a draft notice for my dad. When the certificates arrived first, they were so excited that they picked up from Seattle and drove straight through to Colorado, arriving a week earlier than expected and spending those extra days catching up with family. Who was this distant aunt who set out alone for America? When did my mother, who's never been a pop culture aficionado, become such a fan of Betty White? My mom's memory isn't great, but she's filling in the answers to my many questions as best she can.

my extraordinary **family**

Our annual family issue aims to celebrate extraordinary families in all shapes and sizes. I hope this issue is also a reminder to think about what's extraordinary in *your* family. Find some time to pull that box of mementos from under the bed or out of the attic, and tell some of your tales to your kids or nieces or nephews. Research shows that youth who know their family stories are more resilient and make better decisions in the face of challenges, among other benefits. Consider it an invisible suit of armor to help them face the world.

Now excuse me, I have a bowl of popcorn to share with my kids.

Wendy

WENDY NAUGLE,
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Follow me @wendy_naugle

Also in This Issue

1 CHATTER
3 5 THINGS WE'RE TALKING ABOUT
6 STAR TRACKS
13 SCOOP
20 PASSAGES
23 SMILE
25 PEOPLE PICKS
65 TRAVEL
69 HEALTH
70 STYLE
72 FOOD
78 PUZZLER
79 SECOND LOOK
80 ONE LAST THING

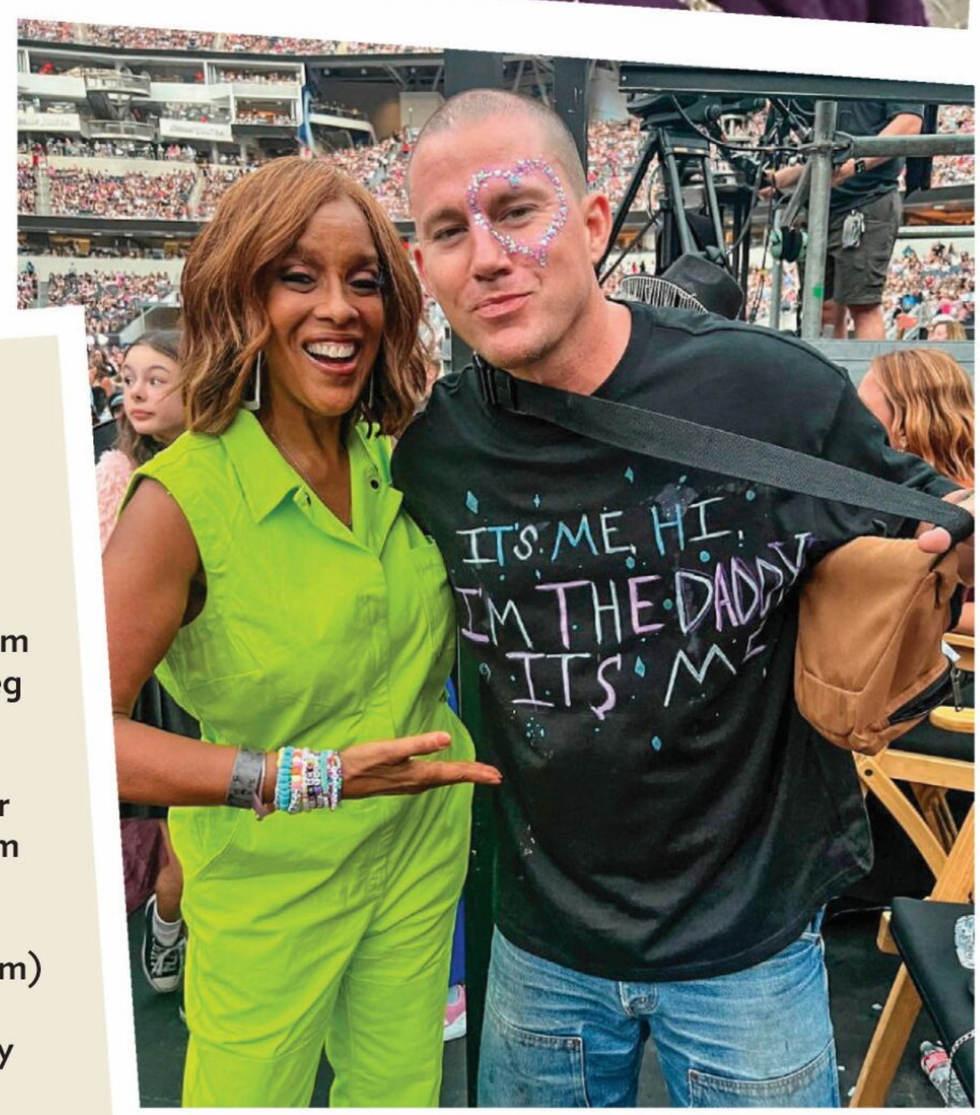
StarTracks

The superstar posed backstage with the late Kobe Bryant's wife, Vanessa (left), and their daughters (from left) Bianka, 6, Capri, 4, and Natalia, 20. During the show Swift gave Bianka her hat while performing "22."

END OF AN ERA

Los Angeles, Aug. 3-5

Celebrity Swifties came out to SoFi Stadium to see Taylor Swift wrap up the first U.S. leg of her Eras tour. Gayle King met up with Channing Tatum (right) in the crowd and later applauded him on Instagram for going "all in" with face jewels and a custom T-shirt riffing on lyrics from Swift's song "Anti-Hero." Prior to the sold-out show on Aug. 3, Nick and Vanessa Lachey (bottom) took their daughter Brooklyn, 8, to SoFi and *People*'s pre-concert party at the Shay hotel. Vanessa called it "a night we will remember forever" on Instagram.



LEFT PAGE: EMMA MCINTYRE/TAS23/GETTY IMAGES. RIGHT PAGE, BOTTOM RIGHT: PRESLEY ANN/GETTY IMAGES

A MEETING OF QUEENS

East Rutherford, N.J., July 30

After catching the second of Beyoncé's two New Jersey shows on her Renaissance World Tour, pop queen Madonna brought her twins Stella (far left) and Estere (second from right), 10, and 17-year-old daughter Mercy (far right) backstage to greet Queen Bey and her daughter Rumi, 5.

STILL ROCKING

Chicago, Aug. 6

Anthony Kiedis, drummer Chad Smith and their Red Hot Chili Peppers bandmates headlined this year's Lollapalooza in Grant Park. The group first performed at the music festival in 1992.

(THIS PAGE) CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: CHRISTOPHER PETERSON/SPLASH NEWS; DANIEL DESLOVER/ZUMA: (RIGHT PAGE) TOP: KAMIL KRZACZYNSKI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

COOL FOR THE SUMMER

New York City, Aug. 6

Donald Glover dressed for a beach day while strolling through the Big Apple. Glover and his brother Stephen are reportedly writing *Lando*, Disney+'s upcoming Star Wars series.

BACK ON THE BEAM

Hoffman Estates, Ill., Aug. 5

Four-time gold medalist **Simone Biles** returned to competitive gymnastics for the first time since the Tokyo Olympics in 2021, winning the 2023 U.S. Classic. "Tears of joy," the gymnast wrote on Instagram.

GAME ON

Wales, Aug. 5

Wrexham A.F.C. co-owner **Ryan Reynolds** (left) welcomed **Hugh Jackman** to the Welsh soccer team's match. "FINALLY snagged an invite," Jackman captioned the snap with Reynolds, who bought Wrexham A.F.C. with actor Rob McElhenney in 2020.

FAMILY FUN IN THE SUN

Chrissy Teigen and **John Legend** enjoyed their first vacation as a family of six. "So far, so great!" Legend wrote on Instagram on Aug. 6. The couple recently welcomed their fourth child, son **Wren,** on June 19 via surrogate. They also share **Luna,** 7, **Miles,** 5, and **Esti,** 7 months.

Purina trademarks are owned by Société des Produits Nestlé S.A.

"My cats absolutely loved this food!"
-Krystal*

"They went crazy for it! Highly recommend!"
-Aleae*

"My cat has a new favorite food"
-Nicole*

NO WONDER WE'RE AMERICA'S #1 DRY CAT FOOD**

*Received a free product for an honest review

SCAN FOR MORE

** Based on 52-week $ sales

PURINA Your Pet, Our Passion.®

StarTracks

BUFFY REUNION

Buffy the Vampire Slayer stars Sarah Michelle Gellar and Seth Green connected at Taylor Swift's L.A. concert on Aug. 6, more than 20 years after the hit show ended. Geller returned to the supernatural genre with *Wolf Pack* in January and recently hinted at a second season.

TGIF NOSTALGIA

Sabrina the Teenage Witch star Melissa Joan Hart (second from left) joined *Boy Meets World* costars—and fellow former ABC Friday night mainstays—Rider Strong (left), Will Friedle and Danielle Fishel at the Nashville stop of the *Boy Meets World* rewatch podcast tour on Aug. 4.

TOP: EVERETT

StyleTracks

SUMMER GLOVIN'

Who says you can't wear statement gloves in hot weather? These styles are sheer genius

Nicole Kidman in Saint Laurent in London.

Poppy Delevingne in Dolce & Gabbana in Antibes, France.

America Ferrera in a Roland Mouret gown and see-through gloves in London.

Keke Palmer in Dolce & Gabbana in N.Y.C.

Alessandra Ambrosio in Dolce & Gabbana in Antibes, France.

(STYLETRACKS) CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: MIKE MARSLAND/WIREIMAGE; DAVE BENETT/GETTY IMAGES; SANTIAGO FELIPE/GETTY IMAGES; JED CULLEN/DAVE BENETT/WIREIMAGE; DAVE BENETT/GETTY IMAGES; (GELLAR & GREEN) FROM TOP: EVERETT

95%
HAD VISIBLY-SMOOTHER SKIN
in just 7 days with Olay Hyaluronic Body Lotion.* For skin your face will envy, use with Olay Hyaluronic Body Wash.

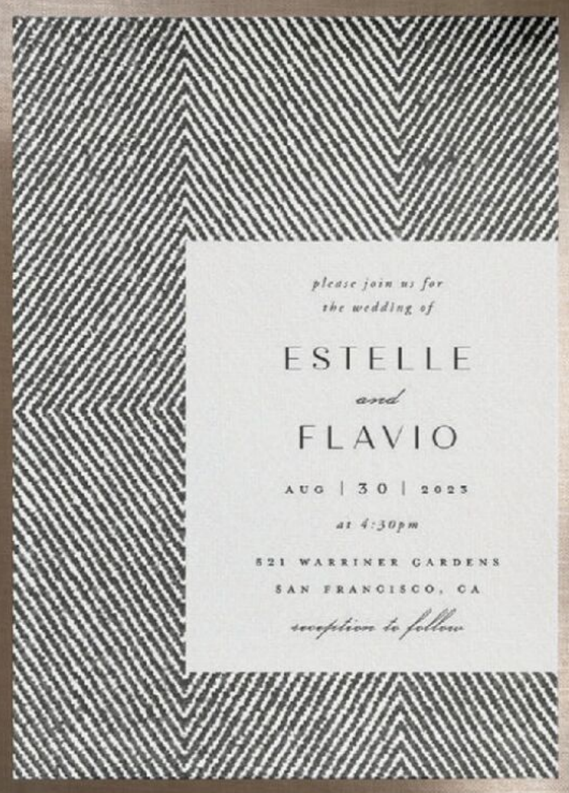
*based on expert texture grading vs. baseline when used 2x/day

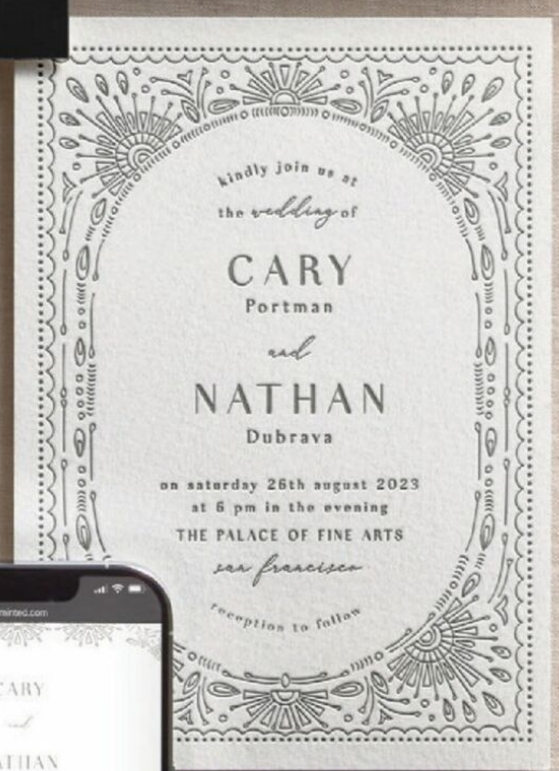
INTRODUCING THE

minted. + BRIDES

COLLECTION

The BRIDES® editorial team forecasted trends, and we curated stationery and wedding day essentials to match. Tell your love story with unique designs crafted by independent artists, printed with premium quality, and tailored by you.





CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:
Charming by Eric Beckett, **Elegant Ethno** by Nicole Franke, **Splendor** by Devika Keskar, **Paloma** by Kristie Kern

Choose a FREE wedding website that matches your invitation design to tie your theme together.

20% off your first order

CODE: BRIDES2023
EXPIRES: 12/31/2023

MINTED.COM/WEDDING

The Dancers Suing Lizzo

"What came across to me in talking to these young ladies is that Lizzo was very different privately," says the plaintiffs' lawyer Ronald Zambrano.

Crystal Williams, 26

Arianna Davis, 24

Noelle Rodriguez, 25

(LIZZO) KEVIN MAZUR/GETTY IMAGES

Inside the Shocking Lawsuit Against Lizzo

By RACHEL DESANTIS

She's built her brand on an empowering message of body positivity, but Lizzo is under fire after a trio of her former dancers claimed in a new lawsuit that the Grammy-winning pop star fostered a hostile work environment rife with weight-shaming, sexual harassment and racial discrimination.

On Aug. 1 Arianna Davis, Crystal Williams and Noelle Rodriguez—who all performed on Lizzo's recent Special Tour—filed a lawsuit against the "About Damn Time" singer, 35, as well as her production company Big Grrrl Touring Inc. and her dance captain Shirlene Quigley. The three women allege that Lizzo pressured Davis into touching a nude performer's breasts on a night out in Europe; posed "thinly veiled concerns about Davis' weight gain"; and enabled toxic employees in leadership roles, among other claims.

A rep and attorney for Lizzo, the production company and Quigley have not responded to multiple >>

Left Reeling
Lizzo (on tour in February) was "blindsided" by the suit, which serves as a "wake-up call that all of [her achievements] can be instantly diminished," says a source close to the star.

requests for comment, but two days after the suit was filed, Lizzo slammed the accusations in a lengthy Instagram note. "My character has been criticized," she wrote in an Aug. 3 post. "Usually I choose not to respond to false allegations but these are as unbelievable as they sound." The "Truth Hurts" performer—who insisted that she is "not the villain"—added that the dancers had been "told their behavior on tour was inappropriate and unprofessional."

But the plaintiffs say the opposite. "I felt unsafe. I felt disrespected," says Rodriguez, who tells *People* she quit working for Lizzo in May on the same day that Davis was fired after Lizzo learned she had made a recording of a performance notes session. "We deserve to feel safe in our workplace." Adds Williams: "You see this pattern of: Every time I advocate for myself I'm either retaliated against or there's gaslighting to discredit what I'm saying. Instead of addressing the issue, you want to point fingers back at the other person." —**REPORTING BY DANIELLE BACHER**

More Claims
Dance captain Quigley (below) allegedly preached her Christian beliefs and shared her sexual fantasies with the dancers.

A Director Alleges 'Disrespect'

In light of the lawsuit, Oscar-nominated filmmaker Sophia Nahli Allison revealed on social media that she considered directing Lizzo's documentary *Love, Lizzo* but walked away after spending two weeks with the star. "I was treated with such disrespect," she alleged. "Lizzo creates an extremely toxic and hostile working environment. She is a narcissistic bully.... I quickly learned her image and 'message' was a curated façade." Ultimately directed by Doug Pray, the project premiered on Max last year.

Meghan's Pre-Birthday Date With Harry

Meghan Markle appeared to kick off her birthday celebration early when she dined at Tre Lune in Montecito, Calif., with her husband, Prince Harry, 38, on Aug. 2, two days before she turned 42. "They enjoyed their food and had a nice time," says a source. (Blink-182's Travis Barker coincidentally posted on Instagram from the restaurant the same night, though it's unclear if he interacted with Meghan and Harry.)

The Tre Lune outing marked a rare public sighting for the couple, who "prefer smaller group hangouts at home, karaoke, that sort of thing," a friend of theirs previously said. "They're not into a big scene." This summer marks three years since the Sussexes settled in Montecito after leaving England and stepping away from their royal duties. As Meghan and Harry have built a life in her home state with their children, Prince Archie, 4, and Princess Lilibet, 2, they've been "really happy together," said the friend. —**DANA ROSE FALCONE AND LIZA ESQUIBIAS**

'[MEGHAN] JUST WANTS TO FOCUS ON THEIR KIDS AND THEIR LIFE IN MONTECITO' —A SOURCE

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: FRANK HOENSCH/REDFERNS; MICHAEL TULLBERG/GETTY IMAGES; LIGHTWORKERS

This Week in Love!

DATE NIGHT

Hailey & Justin Bieber

On Aug. 3 the model, 26, and the singer, 29, stepped out for a dinner date at The Nice Guy in West Hollywood. The couple will celebrate five years of marriage on Sept. 13.

NEW COUPLE

Gabby Windey & Robby Hoffman

The former Bachelorette (left), 32, revealed she's dating comedian and TV writer Robby Hoffman during an Aug. 1 appearance on *The View*. "Told you I'm a girls girl!" Windey later wrote on Instagram.

DIVORCING

Sophia Bush & Grant Hughes

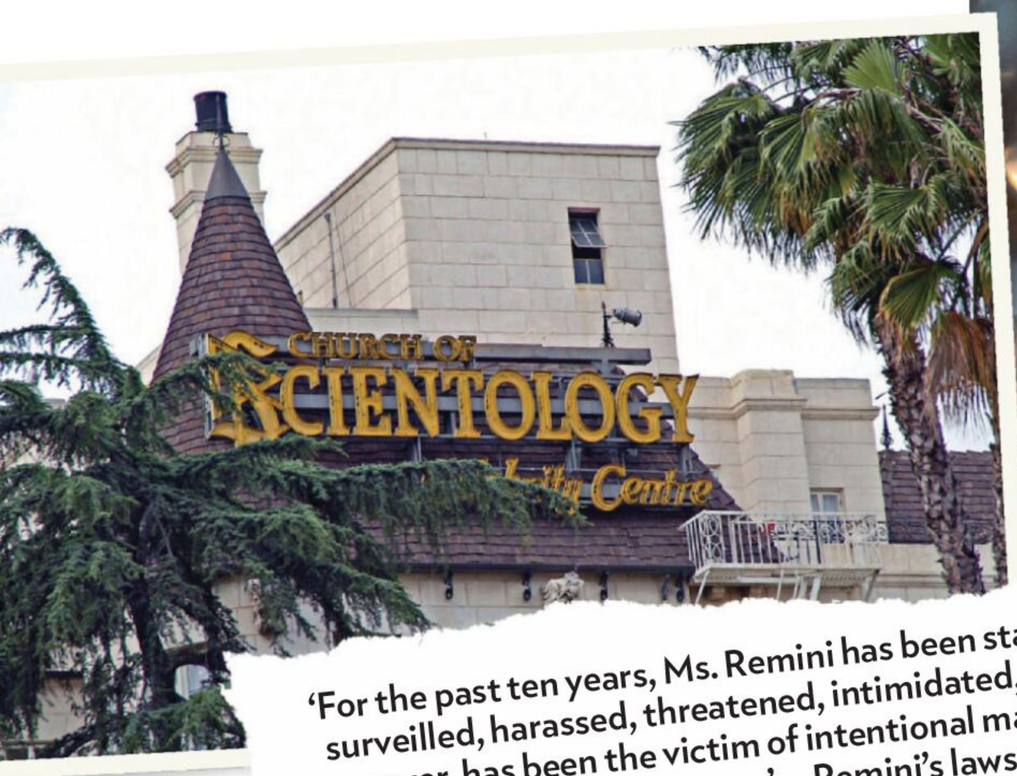
The *One Tree Hill* actress, 41, filed for divorce from the entrepreneur, 41, on Aug. 4, after 13 months of marriage. A source close to the couple says the two "continue to run their nonprofit together and remain good friends."

DATING

Jisoo & Ahn Bo-hyun

The Blackpink singer, 28, and the South Korean actor, 35, are "getting to know each other carefully with a good feeling," Ahn's agency, FN Entertainment, said in a statement to *People* on Aug. 4.

COUNTERCLOCKWISE FROM TOP: IAMKEVINWONG.COM/BACKGRID; LEIGH VOGEL/GETTY IMAGES; STEPHANE CARDINALE/CORBIS/GETTY IMAGES; CHOI SOO-YOUNG/IMAZINS/GETTY IMAGES



'For the past ten years, Ms. Remini has been stalked, surveilled, harassed, threatened, intimidated, and, moreover, has been the victim of intentional malicious and fraudulent rumors . . .' —Remini's lawsuit

Leah Remini Sues the Church of Scientology

A decade after she left the Church of Scientology and became one of its most outspoken critics, Leah Remini is suing the institution. The former *King of Queens* star, 53, is alleging that Scientology leader David Miscavige and his followers have "undertaken a campaign to ruin and destroy" her life since her exit. "For the past ten years, Ms. Remini has been stalked, surveilled, harassed, threatened, intimidated, and, moreover, has been the victim of intentional malicious and fraudulent rumors via hundreds of Scientology-controlled and -coordinated social media accounts that exist solely to intimidate and spread misinformation," reads the 64-page complaint filed in California Superior Court on Aug. 2.

In the lawsuit, Remini—who joined Scientology as a child alongside her mother—claims that much of the harassment came while she was promoting projects that criticized the church, including her 2015 memoir *Troublemaker: Surviving Hollywood and Scientology* and her A&E docuseries *Leah Remini: Scientology and the Aftermath*, which aired from 2016 to 2019.

In a statement, a church spokesperson called the lawsuit "ludicrous" and its allegations "pure lunacy," adding, in part, "Remini spreads hate and falsehoods for a decade and is now offended when people exercise their right to free speech, exposing her for what she is—an anti-free speech bigot."

Remini—who shares daughter Sofia, 19, with husband Angelo Pagan, 55—is seeking unspecified damages. She contends that, by its actions, the church has caused her emotional distress and affected business ventures with brands like iHeartRadio, Vice News and the Game Show Network. (Remini hosts GSN's *PEOPLE Puzzler*, coproduced by *People*'s parent company, Dotdash Meredith.)

Remini requested a jury trial, which former L.A. district attorney Emily D. Baker, who's not involved in the case, says could take more than a year to come together. "The defendants will likely make initial motions to dismiss the case and then begin exchanging information in the discovery process and start depositions," says Baker, who anticipates "contentious litigation" as the case moves forward. "It's unlikely that this could go to trial before late 2024 or early 2025."

'I FEEL STRONGLY THAT THE BANNER OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DOES NOT GIVE ANYONE LICENSE TO INTIMIDATE' —LEAH REMINI

David Miscavige in 2016.

Taking Action Remini (in 2018) wrote on Instagram she's "advocating for victims of Scientology" with her lawsuit. Left: Scientology's Celebrity Centre in L.A.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: CELEBRITYHOMEPHOTOS.COM; SHUTTERSTOCK; CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY/GETTY IMAGES

THE ALL-AMERICAN REJECTS' TYSON RITTER

A Rocker Hits the Road Again—With His Family in Tow

Tyson Ritter is famously an All-American Reject, but he's never felt more accepted. The 39-year-old musician and actor—who shares a 2-year-old son with his wife, actress Elena Satine, 35—is riding the wave of 2000s-era nostalgia on the band's Wet Hot All-American Summer Tour (their first in nearly a decade) running through Oct. 14.

What do you remember most from the '00s? Fear and excitement. On the eve of [their multi-platinum 2005 album] *Move Along* coming out, I remember going, "Oh my God, if this doesn't [work out], I'm gonna be working at Blockbuster." And now Blockbuster doesn't even exist, so where would I be?! *Move Along* ended up being unforgettably transformative and just such a fun ride.

Will your family join you on tour? They're on the whole run with me. This is going to be a full-on Osmonds experience. My son requests [the Rejects' 2002 debut single] "Swing, Swing."

Is there a new album in the band's future? I never say never, but it would take a lot to get another record out of this band. It is a perfect little time capsule that we've created.

—LIZA ESQUIBIAS

Pop-Punk Lives On Ritter (above, with bandmates Chris Gaylor, Mike Kennerty and Nick Wheeler in 2005 and, right, in 2022) says singing the band's hits "isn't old yet." Below: Ritter and wife Elena Satine in 2021.

Jeremy Allen White Moves On With Ashley Moore

The Bear star Jeremy Allen White appears to have found a new love interest. The Emmy-nominated actor, 32, was seen sharing a passionate kiss with actress Ashley Moore, 30, a star of the TV series *I Know What You Did Last Summer,* while on a walk in Los Angeles on Aug. 5. The sighting came nearly three months after his estranged wife, actress Addison Timlin, 32, filed for divorce. "She's cool and easygoing," a source says of Moore. "She has always been focused on her career and staying consistent." Despite their separation, a source says, White and Timlin—who were married in 2019 and share two daughters, Ezer, 4, and Dolores, 2—remain on good terms. "They are getting along," says another source.

—JP MANGALINDAN WITH REPORTING BY PERNILLA CEDENHEIM AND DANIELLE BACHER

White and Moore in L.A. on Aug. 5.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: FRANK MULLEN/WIREIMAGE; MATT WINKELMEYER/GETTY IMAGES; MEDIAPUNCH/SHUTTERSTOCK; VEGAN/BACKGRID; TODD OWYOUNG/NBC/GETTY IMAGES; KELLY LEE BARRETT/GETTY IMAGES

promotion

People spotlight

AUGUST 2023

Crisp. Cool. Long Lasting.

EXTRA® Refreshers chews are ready whenever—and wherever—you need to refresh.

Extragum.com/refreshers

WRIGLEY'S Extra LONG LASTING FLAVOR

©2023 Mars or Affiliates

Which Camp Are You In?

Introducing Savory Nut Crunch Bars from Nature Valley. The crunch you love with a shockingly savory twist. Available in White Cheddar, Everything Bagel, and Smoky BBQ. Summer snacking never tasted so good.

Naturevalley.com

NATURE VALLEY

Feel the Magic of BLUE Treats

Mutual joy for you and your dog, plus the confidence of feeding healthy ingredients? That's Bluephoria™.

BLUETreats.com

BLUE BUFFALO

Good Dogs Deserve Something Special

PEDIGREE® Treats & Pouches are an easy, tasty way to bring out the good in your dog. Feed the Good.™

Pedigree.com

More is More with Magnum Ice Cream

Magnum ice cream is the ultimate indulgence, sourced and crafted from the highest quality ingredients, including Belgian chocolate, indulgent sauces, and velvety ice creams.

Magnumicecream.com

MORE IS MORE
MAGNUM ice cream

Cinnamon Toast Crunch, Blasted with Cinnadust

Start your day with the epic flavor of Cinnamon Toast Crunch. Just pour a bowl, add some milk, and don't forget to slurp up the Cinnamilk.

Cinnamontoastcrunch.com

Cinnamon Toast Crunch

Pour Your Heart Into Every Morning

With a touch of real honey and whole grain oats, Honey Nut Cheerios™ is a delicious addition to any heart healthy* diet.

Honey Nut Cheerios

Learn more at Cheerios.com

(Three grams of soluble fiber daily from whole grain oat foods, like Honey Nut Cheerios™ cereal, in a diet low in saturated fat and cholesterol, may reduce the risk of heart disease. Honey Nut Cheerios cereal provides .75 grams per serving)

m&m's® for all funkind

We All Bring **Unique Flavor** to the Bowl

Visit mms.com or your local retailer to purchase M&M'S products.

Experience a New Level of Access

Interact with editors. Try new products. Go to exclusive events. Receive special offers from our sponsors.

PeopleInsiders.com/join

Meet the Hot Stars of *Red, White & Royal Blue*

Finding the right actors to embody Red, White & Royal Blue*'s rivals turned lovers was no piece of cake. Then along came Nicholas Galitzine, 28, and Taylor Zakhar Perez, 31, who director Matthew López says had a "natural and instantaneous" rapport. In the Prime Video rom-com (adapted from the popular 2019 book and streaming now) Galitzine and Perez (who were interviewed July 12) play, respectively, Prince Henry of England and Alex Claremont-Diaz, the son of America's first female president.*

A Meaningful Movie
"I hope this film helps anybody who is struggling with figuring out who they are get through it," says Perez (left; inset, in character with Galitzine).

First impressions of each other?

NICHOLAS GALITZINE As soon as Taylor and I met in person, we realized we had the same sense of humor. It made the chemistry a lot easier.

TAYLOR ZAKHAR PEREZ We had no ego, because we knew how much this book means to people.

What made filming sex scenes less awkward?

GALITZINE Mints! You want to stay fresh.

PEREZ It was just choreography, counting in our heads like a dance. We'd be like, "Grab, one, two; squeeze, one, two."

How are you similar to your characters?

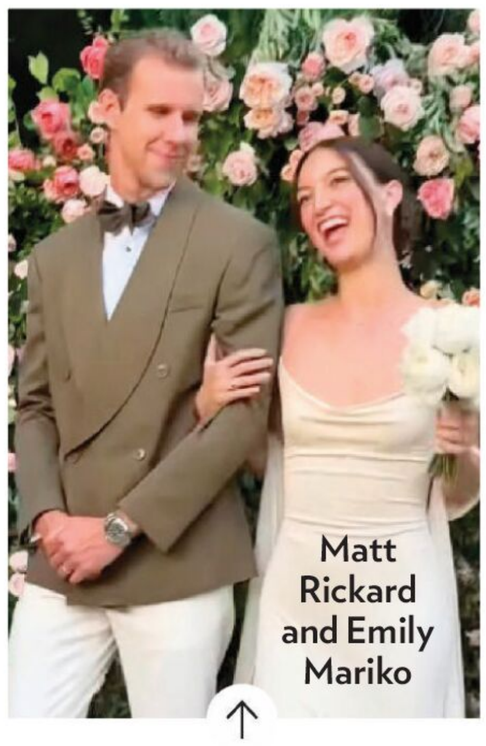
GALITZINE Henry is completely different to me in so many ways, but we're both feeling people.

PEREZ Alex has great family values. I grew up with parents who had big aspirations for themselves and their eight kids.

—BENJAMIN VANHOOSE

Rising to the Challenge
Matching the fireworks of Casey McQuiston's best-selling novel put "a lot on our shoulders," Perez says. "We had to make sure this is a really good film, or else we are going down!"

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: JONATHAN PRIME/PRIME VIDEO; MATTHEW BROOKES/PRIME VIDEO


Matt Rickard and Emily Mariko

Weddings

TikTok star **Emily Mariko,** 31, married her longtime partner **Matt Rickard,** 31, a software engineer, on July 22 in a ceremony in Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif.

Babies

Bachelor alum **Amanda Stanton,** 33, revealed she is expecting a baby with husband **Michael Fogel,** a real estate entrepreneur, in an Aug. 3 Instagram post. Stanton is also mom to daughters **Kingsley,** 10, and **Charlie,** 8, from a previous marriage.

SPLITS

Justin Trudeau and Sophie Grégoire Trudeau Announce Separation

The Canadian prime minister and his wife of 18 years revealed the news on Aug. 2

Justin Trudeau and his wife, Sophie Grégoire Trudeau, 48, a former television host, have made public their intention to end their marriage. In remarks shared to social media, the 51-year-old politician said they came to the decision after "many meaningful and difficult conversations." The couple, who wed in May 2005 in Montreal, share three children: Xavier, 15, Ella-Grace, 14, and Hadrien, 9. "They remain a close family and Sophie and the Prime Minister are focused on raising their kids in a safe, loving and collaborative environment," Trudeau's office wrote in a statement. Trudeau, who has been in office since 2015, plans to run for reelection in 2025. —**VIRGINIA CHAMLEE**

Justin Trudeau and Sophie Grégoire Trudeau in September 2019.

Crime

A 17-year-old suspect has been charged with second-degree murder as a hate crime and criminal possession of a weapon in relation to the death of New York City dancer and choreographer **O'Shae Sibley,** 28. On July 29 Sibley, a gay man, was dancing to **Beyoncé** at a gas station with friends when he was confronted by a group of men who allegedly used homophobic and racist slurs before one fatally stabbed him. The 17-year-old has not been named.

● Former President **Donald Trump,** 77, pleaded not guilty on Aug. 3 to four criminal counts by a federal grand jury investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol riot and efforts to overturn the 2020 presidential election.

Suzanne Somers

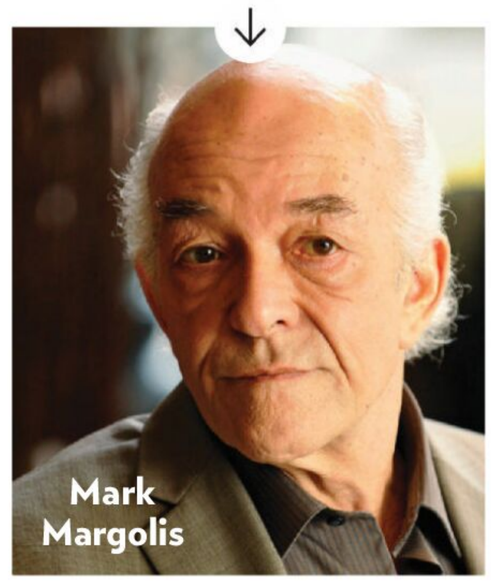
Health

Actress **Suzanne Somers,** 76, revealed in a July 31 Instagram post that her breast cancer has returned. First diagnosed in 2000, the *Three's Company* star wrote, "I know how to put on my battle gear and I'm a fighter."

Deaths

William Friedkin, the Oscar-winning director of *The French Connection* and *The Exorcist*, died on Aug. 7 of heart failure and pneumonia at his Los Angeles home. He was 87.

● Actor **Mark Margolis,** known for his work on *Breaking Bad* and *Better Call Saul*, died on Aug. 3 in New York City after a short illness. He was 83.


Mark Margolis

—**DANIELA AVILA**

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: KAYLA OADDAMS/WIREIMAGE; MATT BARON/SHUTTERSTOCK; ALAN ZENUK/USA NETWORK/NBCU/GETTY IMAGES; CHRIS WATTIE/BLOOMBERG/GETTY IMAGES

1965-2023

Bryan Randall, Sandra Bullock's Longtime Love, Dies at 57 From ALS

The photographer 'chose early to keep his journey with ALS private,' his family says

Sandra Bullock's boyfriend of eight years, photographer Bryan Randall, died on Aug. 5 after a three-year battle with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), an incurable progressive neurodegenerative disease. Randall "passed away peacefully," his family said in a statement to *People*. He was 57.

"Bryan chose early to keep his journey with ALS private and those of us who cared for him did our best to honor his request," the statement continued. "We are immensely grateful to the tireless doctors who navigated the landscape of this illness with us and to the astounding nurses who became our roommates, often sacrificing their own families to be with ours. At this time we ask for privacy to grieve and to come to terms with the impossibility of saying goodbye to Bryan."

He is survived by family members including his adult daughter from a previous relationship, as well as Bullock, 59, and her two children Louis, 13, and Laila, 11, whom she and Randall were raising together.

A former model who hailed from Portland, Ore., Randall posed for fashion brands like Hugo Boss and Saint Laurent before transitioning into photography. He met Bullock when she hired him to take pictures of Louis's 5th-birthday celebration in January 2015. The two began dating and took their relationship more public that August when they attended Jennifer Aniston and Justin Theroux's wedding together.

Though Bullock and Randall largely kept their romance out of the spotlight, the actress opened up in a 2021 episode of *Red Table Talk*, calling Randall "the love of my life" and saying that their blended family was "the best thing ever."

Bullock and Randall never wed, but the Oscar winner said she didn't need any official document to prove her dedication to him. "I don't wanna say do it like I do it, but I don't need a paper to be a devoted partner and devoted mother," she said, adding, "I don't need to be told to be ever-present in the hardest of times. I don't need to be told to weather a storm with a good man." She also praised his skills as a father. "He's the example that I would want my children to have," she said.

Others who loved Randall shared Bullock's sense of admiration. "He was a beautiful person," says his friend, boxing pro Mia St. John, "and I'm grateful to have known him."

—ERIC ANDERSSON WITH REPORTING BY JULIE JORDAN AND MARISA SULLIVAN

The Perfect Gentleman Randall (above, with Bullock in 2018, and top right, in 2011) was "very patient. A saint," she said on *Red Table Talk* in 2021.

To help fund research into ALS, Randall's family suggests donating to Massachusetts General Hospital (**giving.massgeneral.org/donate**) or the ALS Association (**als.org/research**).

FROM TOP: ANAIS & DAX/AUGUST; BERETTA/SIMS/SHUTTERSTOCK

NERVES CAN CHANGE AS YOU AGE

Which may cause occasional feelings of nerve discomfort such as stabbing, burning, tingling, and numbness.‡

NERVIVE NERVE RELIEF

Helps with nerve discomfort

IN JUST 14 DAYS.*‡

*THESE STATEMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN EVALUATED BY THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION. THIS PRODUCT IS NOT INTENDED TO DIAGNOSE, TREAT, CURE, OR PREVENT ANY DISEASE.

‡Alpha Lipoic Acid in Nervive helps with occasional nerve discomfort due to aging.

©2023 P&G

smile!

Cheri and Laurie Schreiber of Saint Mary's, Pa. (left), with Tammi and Marci Kavelman of Toronto.

Camryn and Camille Foxx of Cleveland (rear), with Jolie and Harlie Sims of Houston.

2,000 Sets of Twins Gather for Annual Festival

TWINSBURG, OHIO

A thunderstorm didn't stop thousands of identical and fraternal pairs from coming together to celebrate what makes them unique (and the same!) at the 48th Twins Days Festival Aug. 4-6. "It's like a family reunion," says Sandy Miller, 80, a mom of twins whose family has been involved with planning the annual event since its 1976 inception. "It's amazing to see people from every walk of life who all have so much in common." This year's fest included local families and some from as far as Australia. "It's about the friendships they make while they're here," says Miller. "People come to enjoy the twinship." —KATE HOGAN

The 2023 festival, which included a parade, had a "Shiver Me TWINbers" pirate theme.

SHUTTERSTOCK

Fun Fact!

In past years days-old twin newborns have gone to the fest with their parents. One year a 98-year-old twosome attended.

Dan and Dave Kirkpatrick of Milwaukee.

Photographs by NICK CHILDERS

Have a story that makes you smile?
Send suggestions to storiestomakeyousmile@people.com

FOR ONE NIGHT
WE STAND TOGETHER

CELEBRATING PROGRESS & INNOVATION

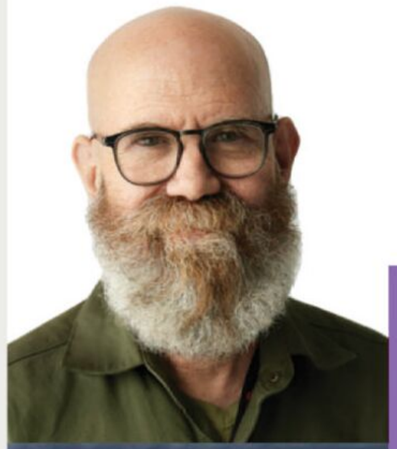
SATURDAY 8/19
8 ET/7 CENTRAL

JOIN US AT STANDUPTOCANCER.ORG

STAND UP TO CANCER IS A 501(C)(3) CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION. IMAGES ARE FROM STAND UP TO CANCER TELECAST AND EVENTS
THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR CANCER RESEARCH (AACR) IS STAND UP TO CANCER'S SCIENTIFIC PARTNER

Edited by **Tom Gliatto**

Tom has been reviewing for People *since 2005.*



picks

THE BUZZ ON WHAT TO WATCH, READ & LISTEN TO THIS WEEK!

Gadot puts her brains and brawn to use to stop an AI disaster.

NETFLIX | Heart of Stone

Gal Gadot plays a secret agent on a mission that might prove to be…impossible

ACTION In case you haven't noticed, everyone is worried about artificial intelligence and its dangerous potential. AI could eliminate who knows how many jobs, causing economic disruption, or it could hack into national security systems—maybe generating political mischief, maybe triggering wars.

For now, though, there's no reason not to use AI as the winch to turn the plot of a big, harmless summer movie. In *Mission: Impossible—Dead Reckoning Part One*, the enemy is an AI entity so confident it mostly just teases Tom Cruise for two and a half hours, the way you might blow on a dog's ears. Here AI takes the form of an all-mighty little circuit called the Heart. Gold, wafer-thin and housed in a crystal casing, it looks like a sacred candy wrapper. But the Heart is meant to do good: It's the special diagnostic gizmo of a secret spy ring, the Charter, dedicated to protecting the world. *Unless* it falls into the wrong hands. Well, guess what happens?

Gadot, who manages to be both goddessy yet rough-and-tumble, plays Rachel Stone, a Charter employee covertly embedded in a British MI6 team headed by Jamie Dornan's coolly handsome Parker. With her expert training in encryption and physical daring, Stone is there to make sure the British don't muck up their takedown of an arms dealer. But a sly new villain emerges at the scene: a genius hacker (Alia Bhatt) who wants that Heart. This sets off a chase that gives Gadot the chance to sprint through hellfire—not fast enough to catch Cruise but at a good clip. That goes for *Heart of Stone* too. *(Launches Aug. 11)*

> 'Gadot manages to be both goddessy yet rough-and-tumble'

FROM TOP:: ARI & LOUISE; ROBERT VIGLASKY/NETFLIX

EVEN HEROES NEED HEROES

That's why Dog Chow is on a mission to help every veteran in need obtain a life-saving PTSD service dog.

PURINA®
DOG CHOW®
BRAND DOG FOOD
Always Crafted in the USA

OVER
$1 MILLION
donated directly to the care & training of more PTSD service dogs for veterans

SCAN TO LEARN MORE

50,000+ LBS
of dog food donated to military vets & veteran service dog organizations

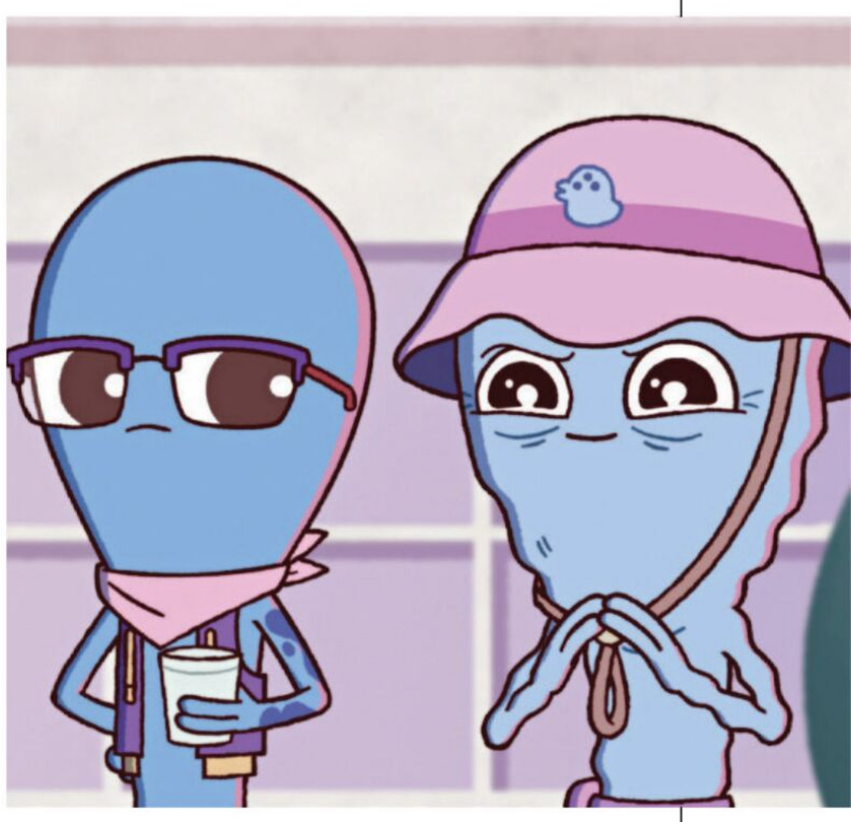
Purina trademarks are owned by Société des Produits Nestlé S.A.

PURINA Your Pet, Our Passion.®

Roger Bart and Casey Likes.

STAGE | Back to the Future: The Musical

MUSICAL Great Scott! This adaptation of Michael J. Fox's beloved 1985 film is an electric production, wonderfully nostalgic and packed with blockbuster special effects. (Yes, the DeLorean really flies!) See it before you run out of time. *(Winter Garden Theatre, New York City)*



APPLE TV+ Strange Planet

ANIMATED This new series is essentially what Earthlings call "observational comedy"—small, astute jokes about daily life—only imagined in a different galaxy. The beings there drink jitter liquid (coffee) and love flip-floppers (pancakes). Get the visual representation? *(New episodes launch Wednesdays)*

FROM TOP: MATTHEW MURPHY & EVAN ZIMMERMAN; APPLE

based on a TRUE STORY!

Affleck as a man with faded rock-star hopes. Zooey Deschanel plays his wife.

MOVIE | Dreamin' Wild

What is the sound of a rock album that nobody plays?

DRAMA When it comes to the layered nuances of grief and regret, Casey Affleck (*Manchester by the Sea*) has few equals. He's a parfait of sorrow. In this touching film he plays Donnie Emerson, a singer-songwriter who put out an album with brother Joe (Walton Goggins) while they were both teens. That was 1979. The album, *Dreamin' Wild,* vanished, a forgotten vanity project, until it resurfaced to serious acclaim four decades later. To Don this triumph feels more like heartbreak, reminding him of his failures since. In a 2012 interview the real Don told *The New York Times,* "I went into the world, and I got convoluted." That's exactly what Affleck's terrific performance conveys. *(In theaters, PG)*

Pierre and Johnson.

MOVIE | Brother

DRAMA Ruth (Marsha Stephanie Blake), a Jamaican immigrant, struggles to raise her boys Francis (*The Underground Railroad*'s Aaron Pierre) and Michael (Lamar Johnson). Everything goes wrong—we learn how in a time-shifting narrative—and only Francis survives more or less intact. The three central performances have a collective, uniform power. You watch the embers of hope dying out across them. *(Available on demand)*

FROM TOP: FELICITY DONARSKI/ROADSIDE ATTRACTIONS; VERTICAL

FUELING AMERICA'S FOUR-LEGGED HEROES

Since 1926

100% COMPLETE NUTRITION

High QUALITY PROTEIN

Purina trademarks are owned by Société des Produits Nestlé S.A.

PURINA Your Pet, Our Passion.®

MOVIE | Jules

An *E.T.* for the sunset years

COMEDY Milton (Ben Kingsley) spends most days alone at home, apart from trips to the store or to the local city council, where he routinely (obsessively) requests a new crosswalk. He's not a particularly engaging old soul, but you sense his loneliness and fear—he's losing his memory. Then a UFO crash-lands in his yard and spits out a shy, silent alien who looks like a knob of dough that should be boiled or fried. Nicknamed Jules, he eats apples, draws cats and becomes a friend to Milton and two other townspeople, Sandy (a radiant Harriet Sansom Harris) and Joyce (Jane Curtin). The movie has its own special, stubbornly weird streak of whimsy, much of it having to do with those cats. *(In theaters Aug. 11, PG-13)*

Curtin, Harris and Kingsley.

Sinéad O'Connor, Actress

Yes, the Irish singer, who died last month, could be called an actress, even if she had only one significant dramatic film role—a small one, at that. She's the Virgin Mary in *The Butcher Boy* (1997), director Neil Jordan's dark comedy about a wild-spirited kid (Eamonn Owens) pushed into madness by abuse. O'Connor is a shimmering vision, speaking softly of God's love. Given her history with the Church, the casting is an ironic stunt, but O'Connor's haunting aura—her remote but serene beauty—gives the film its soul. *(Apple TV)*

PARAMOUNT+ | Love in Taipei

COMEDY-DRAMA In this cute, ardently sincere little film, Ever (Ashley Liao), who's as perfect and responsible as anyone under 20 could possibly be, spends the summer studying in Taiwan before heading off to med school. Attracted to both the accomplished Rick (Ross Butler) and the slackerish Xavier (Nico Hiraga), she slowly learns that having fun doesn't ruin a life. *(Launches Aug. 10)*

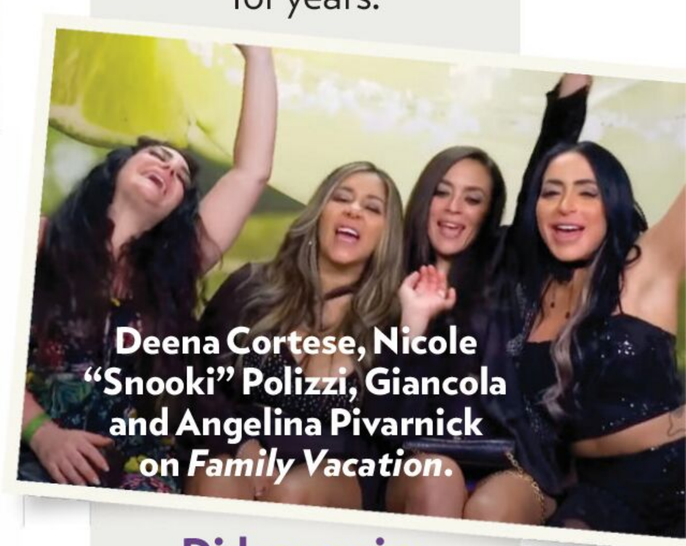
Liao and Butler.

Q&A

Sammi Giancola

Now 36, the Jersey Shore alum returns to the MTV reality franchise for the first time in 11 years for season 7 of Jersey Shore: Family Vacation.

Why rejoin the old gang now?
I'm happy in all aspects of my life, and I was like, "Why not go back?" I've missed it for so long. We just lost touch for years.



Deena Cortese, Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi, Giancola and Angelina Pivarnick on *Family Vacation*.

Did you enjoy filming in the Poconos in Pennsylvania?
I was not a fan of mountains, but it was really fun. I fell right back in as if I'd never left. Everyone still does pranks and all that.

How was seeing your ex Ronnie Ortiz-Magro again?
I probably wouldn't have came back if I knew he was still on the show. But at this point he's just some guy I dated in my 20s.

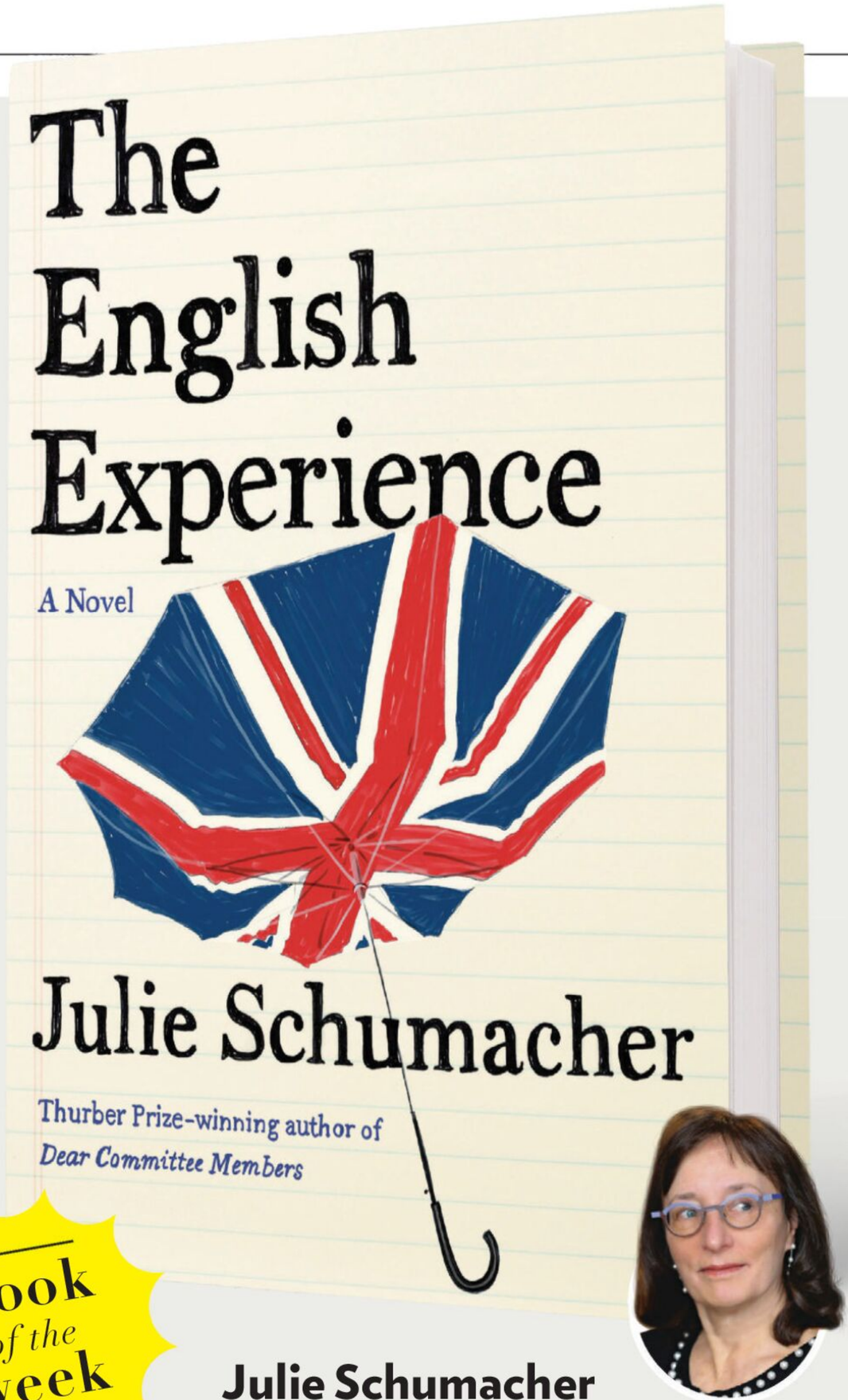
—DANA ROSE FALCONE

CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM: DRAGON 5/PARAMOUNT+; EVERETT; BLEECKER STREET; JAMIE MCCARTHY/GETTY IMAGES

The Best New Books

Study-abroad high jinks, Irish family secrets, and a witchy time-travel romance

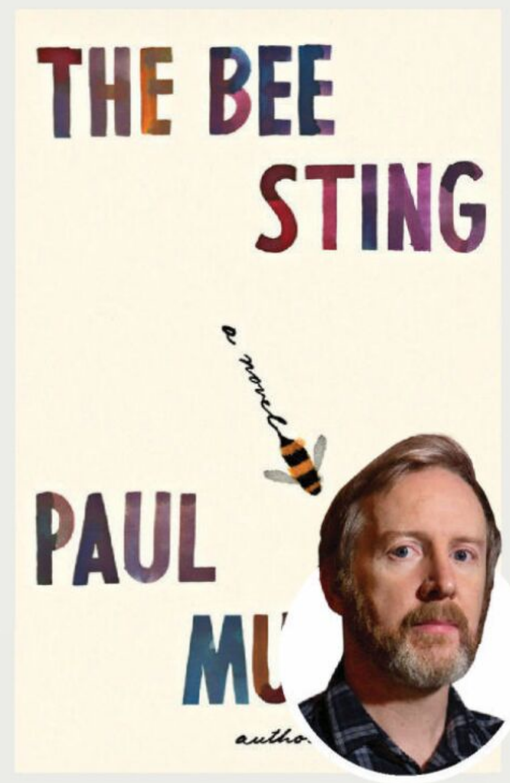
Edited by KATE TUTTLE



book of the week

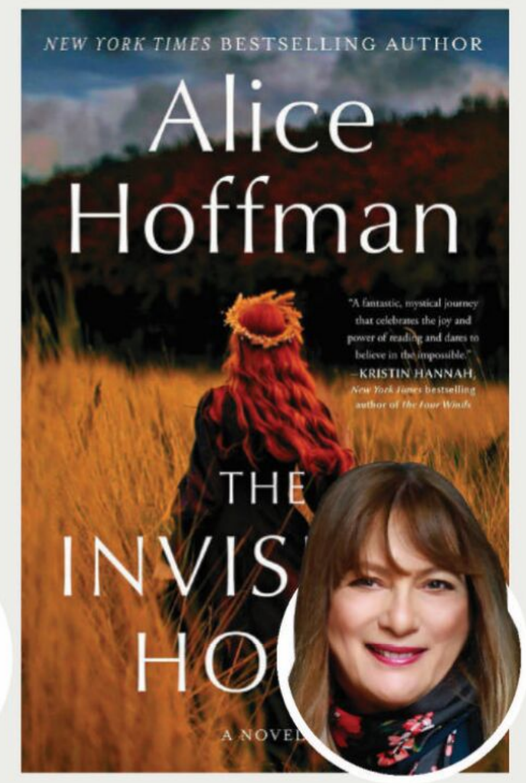
Julie Schumacher
The English Experience
NOVEL

When Professor Fitger is asked to lead a winter-term trip to the U.K., he finds himself in reluctant loco parentis with 11 undergrads, including one who immediately flees to Paris. His Gen Z cohort comes to life through their responses to daily writing prompts, sometimes clueless, sometimes insightful and, more often than you'd expect, touchingly revealing. The mismatched crew ends up bonding in unforeseen ways, including with the old curmudgeon himself.



Paul Murray
The Bee Sting
NOVEL

When Cass and her brother PJ realize there are no pictures of their parents' wedding, they're confused. Was their mam really stung by a bee on the way to the ceremony? Fans of Jonathan Franzen will devour this epic, darkly ironic family drama, set during Ireland's 2008 recession.



Alice Hoffman
The Invisible Hour
NOVEL

Known for magical plot twists, Hoffman takes her sparkling sorcery to the next level with a fierce heroine ditching a patriarchal cult in modern-day Massachusetts for the 19th century, where she has a dreamy love affair with Nathaniel Hawthorne (yes, author of *The Scarlet Letter*).

New in Nonfiction

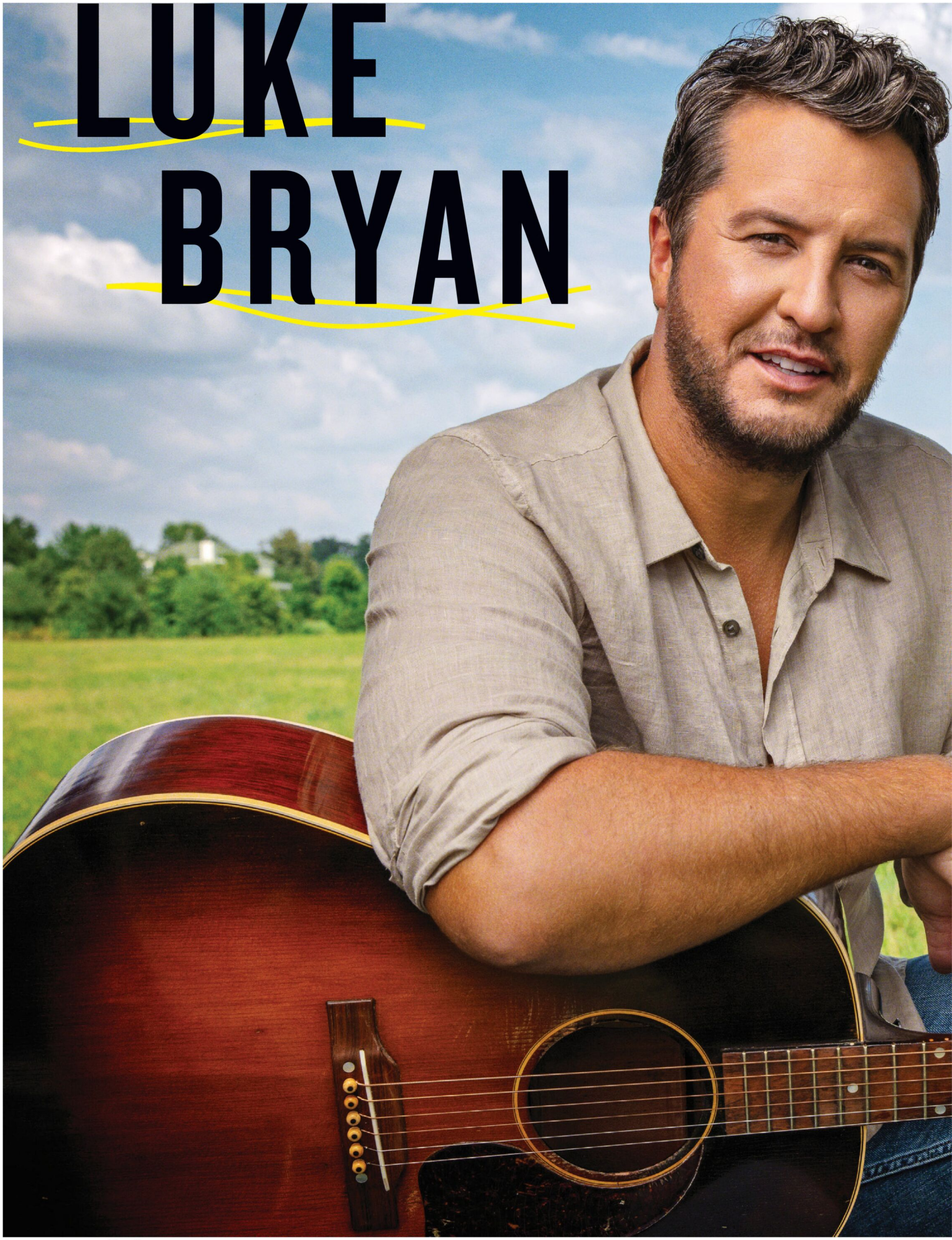
Kristal Brent Zook
The Girl in the Yellow Poncho
Zook recalls a childhood haunted by her missing father—and complicated by his return. A brave, heart-stirring memoir.

Jenn Shapland
Thin Skin
What does it mean to be sensitive or too sensitive? In these brilliant and engaging essays, Shapland ponders how we protect ourselves when life overwhelms.

Sally H. Jacobs
Althea
Before Venus and Serena came Althea Gibson, the first Black tennis player to win a Grand Slam event. Jacobs gracefully chronicles her triumphs on- and off-court.

INSETS, FROM LEFT: SARAH PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY; LEE PELLEGRINI; ALYSSA PEEK

LUKE BRYAN



EXCLUSIVE People EXCLUSIVE

IS STILL LOVIN' EVERY DAY

HE HAD A LONG ROAD TO COUNTRY SUPERSTARDOM. NOW THE SINGER—BALANCING HIS JAM-PACKED TOURING SCHEDULE AND *AMERICAN IDOL*—SAVORS THE SIMPLE THINGS IN LIFE

By **RACHEL DESANTIS**

Photographs by **JIM WRIGHT**

LUKE

Bryan has a certain effect on his fans. It's a breezy July evening at the Shoreline Amphitheatre in Mountain View, Calif., and hours before his show the country superstar has signed a cowboy hat for longtime follower Kayla Curran at a meet and greet. "I'm just in shock. I love him. He's my favorite person," the 20-year-old, who began attending Bryan's shows at age 10 with her parents, tells *People*. Reeling, she turns to her boyfriend beside her and warns him, deadpan: "If Luke Bryan comes along, you're a goner."

Later that night Bryan evokes a similar frenzy as he performs for a sold-out crowd of 20,000 like he's hosting a house party. He poses for selfies, offers fist bumps and pours shots for the crowd throughout his set. After spending the duration of a song trying to capture Bryan's attention, a pair of friends near the front row dissolve into a fit of squeals, giggles and "Oh my God"s when he waves at them. "When I had 100 people in the room, I had a blast, and tonight it'll be the same thing," he told *People* backstage before the show. "The day you quit loving it, it's time to move on. Thankfully I've never had those feelings. It's pretty hard for being in front of 20,000 people to get old."

The singer's small-town southern charm—employed on hits like "Rain Is a Good Thing" and "That's My Kind of Night," just two of his 30 No. 1 hits—seduced his rabid fan base and set him on a meteoric rise more than a decade ago. In the years since, he's become a mainstay in Nashville and beyond, launching a Las Vegas residency and landing a high-profile judging gig on *American Idol*. Along the way he endured setbacks and family tragedy, but at 47, Bryan—who savors his hard-won days off with his wife, Caroline, and their kids—is on top of the world. Still, he hasn't lost touch with his roots. "I'm able to take memories from college—spring break trips, fraternity parties and football games—from working on the farm to having tremendous loss in our family and talk about that in my music," says Bryan. "The most important thing to do as an artist is connect with your fans. On your good days your fans will have your back. And they'll be there for you on those bad days too."

'I LOVE TO MAKE PEOPLE SMILE. THAT'S WHY I FELL IN LOVE WITH MUSIC'
—LUKE BRYAN

A natural entertainer, Bryan began charming audiences in his hometown of Leesburg, Ga. (pop. 3,552), as a teen. But in 1996 his plans of moving to Nashville to pursue music were halted when his older brother Chris died in a car accident at age 26. Bryan instead stayed home to be with his family, graduating from Georgia Southern University and working on his family's peanut farm. In college he met his future wife, Caroline—and when he finally did make the move to Nashville at 25, she helped pay the bills with her job as a pharmaceutical sales rep. "When our relationship started, I was making $15,000 a year. She had a company car we'd ride around in," he says of his wife, whom he wed in 2006. (Aside from raising their sons Tate, 13, and Bo, 15, the couple also supported their nieces Jordan, 28, and Kris, 25, and nephew Tilden, 21, after the unexpected deaths of Bryan's sister Kelly, from unknown causes in 2007, and his brother-in-law Lee, who had a heart attack in 2014.)

Caroline, 43, was also supportive in other ways—like signing off on Bryan's onstage

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ALIVE COVERAGE; MATHEW TSANG/GETTY IMAGES; ERIC MCCANDLESS/ABC/GETTY IMAGES; FRANCIS SPECKER/CBS/GETTY IMAGES; BILL MATLOCK/CBS/GETTY IMAGES

HIS KIND OF PARTY
"I've always really been myself onstage," says Bryan (inset, playing at Crash My Playa in January and, right, in Toronto in June).

FROM FARM KID TO FAMOUS!

GREAT SHOWMAN
"It's not an act," Bryan (in 2019) says of performing. "I'm in the moment, I'm having fun, and I'm feeding off fans' energy."

POWER TRIO
"We just have to show up and be ourselves," says Bryan (with Richie and Perry in May), "and I love that role."

GOLDEN BOY
Bryan (in 2015) has been named Entertainer of the Year twice at the CMA and ACM Awards.

hip-shaking, which has become his signature move. "If she would've shut down the hip-shaking, it would've been a little problematic," he jokes. "But she's always had a fun outlook. She gets that people come see me to party and let loose. She's never gotten in the way of that or put handcuffs on how I perform."

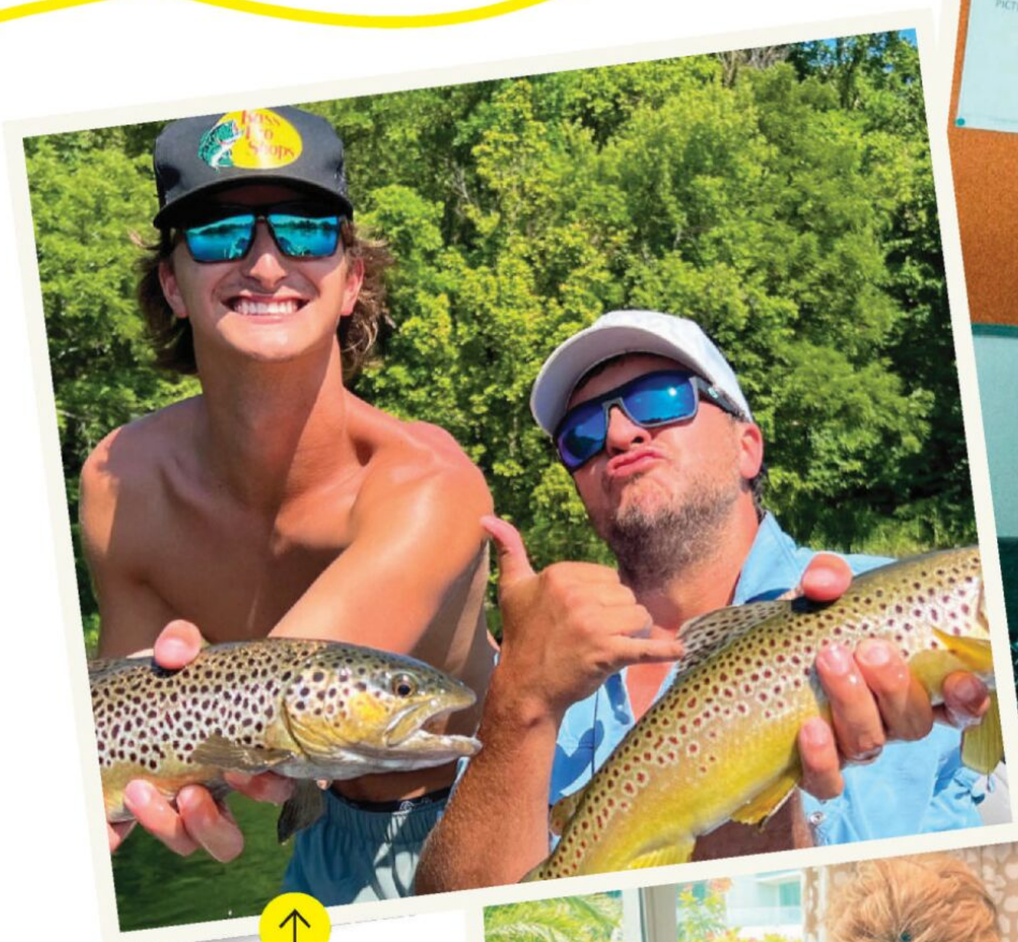
By the time Bryan found success with his debut single, "All My Friends Say," in 2007, he was 30—and better equipped to handle the trappings of fame. "I think at 20 I would've processed it all a lot differently, with a lot less maturity," he says. "When I moved to Nashville when I was 25, I could read people better. I could navigate the shady crowd. It helped me a lot in those aspects." The unexpected gap years also helped Bryan establish his identity as a singer-songwriter. "When I was younger, I wouldn't have really known who I was as an artist. Back then I was just singing other people's songs and trying to figure out what I want to be," he says. "Now I know the main thing is to do your best to tell your story in the most authentic and relatable way. I can't go back and question any of the stars or fate at how it all shaped out. I look back, and I'm proud of my climb to get here."

'ON YOUR GOOD DAYS YOUR FANS WILL HAVE YOUR BACK. THEY'LL BE THERE FOR YOU ON THOSE BAD DAYS TOO'
—LUKE BRYAN

As someone who knows just how grueling that ascent can be, Bryan not surprisingly has become a mentor to the next class of country talent, both for *American Idol* contestants and for his opening acts. "He's just so genuine," says singer Alana Springsteen, 22, who joined him on the road this summer. "What you see is what you get. People say don't meet your heroes, but that is not the case at all with Luke." Adds fellow opener Conner Smith, 22: "He's always been a guy to act on his desire to help and uplift up-and-coming artists. It's been such a blessing to be on the receiving end of that wisdom."

Bryan joined the *Idol* judging panel alongside Katy Perry and Lionel Richie in 2018 when the show returned from a two-year hiatus, and all three recently confirmed they'll return for

LUKE'S LIFE OFFSTAGE



GONE FISHIN'
"We find ourselves floating in a boat, drinking a beer together," Bryan says of nephew Tilden (fishing in 2022).

GOOFING OFF
The singer and Caroline (in 2022) are known for playing pranks on each other. "We're a pretty happy family," he says.

DOWN-TO-EARTH DAD
"I just want them to have their own paths—I don't want them to be in some monstrous shadow of me," Bryan (with Bo, Tate and Caroline in 2022) says of his sons.

season 22 next spring. If Richie is something of a softy and Perry a straight shooter offering tough love, then Bryan falls somewhere in the middle—a consistent cheerleader ready to offer firm advice. "If you'd have told me I would have cried in front of millions of Americans . . . I'm not there trying to put on this tough-country-guy act," he says. "I'm there to get involved in the emotion of the show. And sometimes what you're trying to say is not going to land perfectly. But for the most part, I know when I sit down behind that desk at *American Idol*, me and Lionel and Katy are doing our best and coming from a place of love and compassion." The show has offered Bryan "a whole 'nother level of opportunities" and exposure, he says, and also helped him form a fierce friendship with his fellow judges. Bryan even honored Richie with a cover of "Lady" when Richie received the Library of Congress's Gershwin Prize in 2022. "Luke is the most honest and genuine personality. Working with him on *American Idol* is not work," says Richie. "It's a big play period—and he's still trying to get me to go hunting and fishing."

Between the 70 days spent each year on the *Idol* set, more than 50 tour dates this summer and 12 upcoming residency dates at Resorts World Las Vegas, Bryan requires—and relishes—time off. He likes to recharge with family at home outside Nashville, where he's happy playing dad-next-door, helping tend to Tate's vegetable garden and making sure the dogs stay out of the trash. "On days off I'm running to the grocery store, buying steaks and cooking for any of the neighborhood boys that come by," Bryan says. "With the boys' sports schedules, it's making us be home a lot more, so we've just enjoyed being around the house and huddling up around the grill." Bryan acknowledges his grueling schedule has led to burnout—but never for long. "There's a reason I go on fishing trips and hunting trips and golfing trips and take the family a lot of times," he says. "You recenter yourself and slow down a little bit."

Though Bryan is attempting to ease his pace, saying no is clearly still a work in progress. "As you get older in life, there's places I haven't traveled to yet that you start thinking about . . ." he muses. But first—in addition to working on a follow-up to his 2020 LP *Born Here Live Here Die Here*—he's gearing up for another stint in Vegas this winter; a six-date run of his yearly Farm Tour; and his annual Crash My Playa festival in Cancún in January. "For most of my career I went up there going, *I got to prove myself*. So it's really liberating and gratifying to just go, *I am what I am,*" Bryan says. "I earned it the old-fashioned way: working my butt off. A lot of people have propped me up and helped me along the way, and I hope they can enjoy the ride too." ●

LUKE

by the numbers

78
college scholarships granted through his Farm Tour since 2009

×

29
total ACM Award nominations (with nine wins!)

×

15 MILLION
albums sold

×

478 MILLION+
Spotify streams of his No. 1 hit "Play It Again"

So Smitten
"We're even more of a unit now with the three of us," Da Brat (right) says of wife Judy and son True Legend. "He completes us."

my extraordinary family

Stories of parents who defied the odds—and found even more love

Photographs by DEREK BLANKS

Hip-Hop Legend **Da Brat**

‘Some People Wait a Lifetime *for* This’

FOR THE FIRST TIME THE RAPPER OPENS UP HER HOME AND HAPPY NEW WORLD WITH HER WIFE, JUDY, AND THEIR NEWBORN BABY, TRUE LEGEND

By **JANINE RUBENSTEIN**

Da Brat is still utterly in awe of what her body just did. “Look, this came out of my stomach,” she says, pointing to her tiny newborn, sleeping soundly in the arms of wife Jesseca “Judy” Harris-Dupart at their home in the Atlanta suburb of Alpharetta. “I cry every day. I just look at him and boo-hoo, because I’m so grateful.” On July 6 the legendary rapper, radio host and star of WE TV’s *Brat Loves Judy* gave birth to son True Legend with Harris-Dupart by her side, and she’s been marveling at her journey ever since. “I’m 49, I’m high-risk, I have high blood pressure. So many women so much younger than me want kids and can’t have them, and I had a successful pregnancy,” she says, tearing up. “It’s just an honor. He’s such a blessing.”

The past few years have been one blessing after another for the Chicago native, born Shawntae Harris. Best known for ’90s hip-hop hits like “Funkdafied” as well as her iconic street style, the star met Harris-Dupart, 41, in 2017 and soon felt compelled to open up about her sexuality. “I was stuck in the closet for so many years, I thought I would never come out,” she says, “but I met somebody that gave me the courage to live in my own truth. Now I’m happily married.” Indeed, she and the Kaleidoscope Hair Products CEO wed in fabulous fashion on Feb. 22, 2022. Soon after, they made the decision to expand their family, and Harris-Dupart—already a mom of three adult children from a previous relationship—encouraged Da Brat to be the one to carry their child. Though her wife was wary at first, Harris-Dupart says she “knew the pregnancy itself was going to be something she really appreciated.” Da Brat underwent IVF treatments using eggs from Harris-Dupart and sperm from an anonymous donor. Then, following a heartbreaking miscarriage, she became pregnant with their son. “I think God plans out our journey,” she says. “I’m very happy He saw fit for me to have him.”

She gave birth via scheduled cesarean section and had “no contractions,” experiencing pain only while receiving the epidural. “I never want to do that again,” she says, laughing, “but for him it was worth it.” During the delivery, the rapper admits, she “panicked a little bit.” But Harris-Dupart was there to help de-stress—and deejay—in the moment. “I asked her to play Biggie [Smalls], but that wasn’t helping, so she played our love playlist. I was able to relax and not think.”

Now the family of three are bonding at home, and the couple are enjoying the shared responsibilities of motherhood. “He made us closer,” says Da Brat, who adds that she and Harris-Dupart take turns getting up in the night with True Legend. “We always change his diaper together.” She admits it’s a very different life than she ever saw for herself. “Who would ever think this? Da Brat-a-tat-tat from 1994!” she says, hinting at her tough hip-hop persona. “I’m with a beautiful, successful woman who completes me and inspires me to be better. I’m elated to be a mother. I never thought I would be, and I wouldn’t change it for the world. I never need another thing in life.”

Bumpin’ Along to the Music
While pregnant the rapper (performing in Las Vegas in May) kept the party going, with a fun spin on her usual look.

(DA BRAT) HAIR: SHONTELLE SAMPEUR; MAKEUP: NACHERA BROWN; (JUDY) HAIR: SHANAE B; MAKEUP: ARTEZ NOEL; STYLIST: MICHAEL MOSLEY; INSET: AARON J. THORNTON/WIREIMAGE

CAN A SANDWICH CRAFTED WITH DELECTABLY ROASTED CUTS MAKE YOUR TASTE BUDS QUAKE WITH YEARNING?

OH, HILL YEAH.™

•EST 1934•
HILLSHIRE FARM®

© 2023 Tyson Foods, Inc.

\ my extraordinary **family** /

'She Defied *Every* Odd to Get Here'

DETERMINED TO GIVE THEIR DAUGHTER A SIBLING, SHELBY AND CHASE STEWART ENDED UP WITH TRIPLETS—AND A BIG SURPRISE

By **JOHNNY DODD**

Pregnancy Miracle
"We were just meant to have these three kids," says Shelby (with Chase and, clockwise from left, Etta, Garner, Margot and Bennett on June 28).

Ten days after doctors transferred two embryos into Shelby Stewart—who had battled non-Hodgkin's lymphoma as a teenager—she was a "roller coaster" of emotions. Despite having been told she would never conceive and carry a baby, the then-29-year-old from Vineyard, Utah, took several home pregnancy tests that revealed she was pregnant. But days later a nurse telephoned to inform her and her husband, Chase, that recent blood work indicated something was off. Based on the results, the nurse said, Shelby was probably miscarrying again. "I was just devastated," she recalls. "I kept thinking, 'This cannot be happening. There is no way I'm having my fourth miscarriage.'"

Shelby soon learned there had been a mistake at the lab. Not only was she *not* at risk of losing her baby—she was actually carrying triplets. It was startling news for Shelby, who had been desperate to give her 3-year-old daughter Bennett—conceived through intrauterine insemination (where sperm is placed directly into the uterus) in September 2017—a sibling before premature menopause, a result of chemotherapy, made it

EMMA MONTGOMERY PHOTOGRAPHY

1

2

3

Their Family Journey

1. Shelby and Chase with Bennett, then 4, in February.

2. "It was so hard on her body," Chase says of Shelby (in April 2021 at the hospital after going into preterm labor at 31 weeks).

3. "The possibility of triplets never crossed my mind," says Shelby of Etta, Garner and Margot (in June 2021). "I was nervous about [the possibility of] having twins."

impossible. "I was so pumped up," recalls Shelby, who like many IVF patients hoped multiple embryos would increase the odds of success. "Then a few days later I began freaking out. We wanted one more baby, and now we were getting *three*."

The couple were in for another shock that began to unfold after Shelby gave birth in May 2021, at 35 weeks, to a son, Garner, and daughters Etta and Margot, whom doctors assumed were the result of the implanted female embryo splitting. Within hours of the triplets' arrival the parents, along with nurses, friends and family, noticed that Margot—with her thicker, darker hair—looked little like the fairer Etta, seemingly her identical twin. "We had so many thoughts going through our heads," says Chase, 36, a sales leader at a software development company. "Like, 'What if they put someone else's embryo in with ours?'"

Engaging in five months of detective work, Shelby—who had never ovulated without hormone injections—studied DNA tests results and queried doctors, genetic counselors and fertility clinic lab workers. Their conclusion: Amazingly, she had gotten pregnant *naturally*, on the couple's fifth anniversary, only 10 days before doctors transferred the two embryos. "Learning that was such a supercool moment," recalls Shelby, now 31. "I was so relieved to finally have answers about how our little miracles came to be."

'The three of them were all meant to come together. That's why it worked out like this'

—SHELBY STEWART

The revelation that their triplets were the result of IVF and natural conception—odds that Shelby's genetic counselor placed at "less than one in a million"—confirmed the couple's belief that the pregnancy was meant to be. Even big sister Bennett, now 5, is convinced her siblings are heaven-sent. "She always refers to them as *her* babies," says Shelby, adding that her oldest can often be found helping to feed the toddlers. "We recently took [Bennett] to Disneyland without them, and the first thing she said when we got back was, 'Next time can we bring the babies?'"

The 2-year-old triplets are also equally smitten with one another. "They have to kiss each other goodnight every evening," says Shelby, a full-time stay-at-home mom, who estimates she and Chase are changing upwards of 150 diapers a week. "Watching that bond grow has made everything we went through worth it."

with reporting by **ANGELA ANDALORO**

Bonded Babies

"They refuse to be apart," Shelby says of (from left) Margot, Garner and Etta, at 6 months. "We can't even take one to the doctor without the others."

LEFT PAGE: COURTESY STEWART FAMILY(4); RIGHT PAGE: COURTESY TAYLOR FAMILY(2)

\ my extraordinary **family** /

'If You See a *Need*, You Fill It'

STILL IN THEIR 20s, TASIA AND DREW TAYLOR OPENED THEIR HOME—AND HEARTS—TO BECOME PARENTS TO TEENS

By **EILEEN FINAN** *and* **ABBY ROEDEL**

Family Found "We have a lot of fun together," says Tasia (below, with Drew and daughters Tamiray and Rory in 2022). Above: Rory's adoption day last December.

When Tasia and Drew Taylor first shared the news in April 2022 that they were taking in a 12-year-old foster daughter, nearly everyone told them it was a bad idea. After all, the Dardanelle, Ark., couple had been married for less than two years—and they weren't much past their teenage years themselves. "We weren't trying to do something noble—and we didn't feel we were ready for it," says Drew, now 25, of their unexpected dive into parenthood. "But we saw something that needed to happen, and we made it happen."

Their journey to becoming a family began when Tasia, now 23, first met Rory, a student at the private school where she was teaching. Rory had bounced around the foster care system from the age of 3 until she was adopted at 5. But after more than seven years, Rory's adoptive parents decided to return her to foster care. "They told the school, but they hadn't told Rory," says Tasia. "They didn't want her to know until it was time. When I first heard, it made me so sick I threw up in the bathroom at school."

Tasia and Drew, a high school math teacher, knew they wanted to give Rory a home. They called the Department of Human Services, applied to become

foster parents and put their names on her case. "They told us they didn't think it would happen because we were so young," Tasia says. "We were really scared it wouldn't work out." But they got their house ready just in case, with Drew setting up a bed in anticipation. When they got the call, and Rory, now 13, moved in, "it was awesome," Tasia says. "She fit right in." Nine months later they legally adopted her.

Around the same time, the couple learned that Tasia's teenage cousin Tamiray was also in need. Since she was a year old, Tamiray had been cared for by their grandmother, whose health was beginning to decline. "I knew that I loved Tamiray—and I knew there wasn't really anyone else," says Tasia. The couple took legal custody of Tamiray, now 15, who came to live with them in July 2022. "Our faith plays a huge role. We felt God was calling us, and we trusted he would provide along the way."

Well-Matched "We make a good team," Tasia says of her marriage to Drew (with the girls at home last Christmas). "That's why we do so well with the kids."

With the addition of their two girls and, in March, a 12-year-old boy they are currently fostering and hope to adopt, the Taylors have had a crash course in parenting. Their three-bedroom, 1,556-sq.-ft house is a little more crowded, and the couple admit money is tight, but they say they wouldn't have it any other way: "All three have been searching for family, and I hope they feel like they've finally found it," Drew says of their kids.

It hasn't always been easy. "Sometimes I have to explain, 'I can't buy you brand-new Lululemon because we have to pay the water bill,'" says Tasia, pointing out that she and Drew are just at the beginning of their careers. "They forget that we're 23 and 25, and we're trying our best."

But youth also has its advantages for the parents: Recently, one of the girls tried to skirt a house rule banning social media (the kids are also required to turn in their devices by 8:30 p.m.) and hid a Snapchat account on her phone. But Tasia quickly discovered it. "I was like, 'I've seen that a time or two. I tried the same thing a few years ago!'" she says. "They don't get away with anything."

In a few months the Taylors will take on another new parenting challenge—and joy: They're expecting their first baby in February. "I have health issues, and we didn't think I could get pregnant," Tasia says. "So this is the icing on the cake. The kids are thrilled out of their minds and are making gifts for the baby." And, she says, they're keeping the door open to the possibility of more surprises: "We aren't actively pursuing anything, but the Lord's going to put the kids in our lives that need to be in our lives—and there's no way we would say no." ●

'It's always been part of our relationship to nurture and care for people'

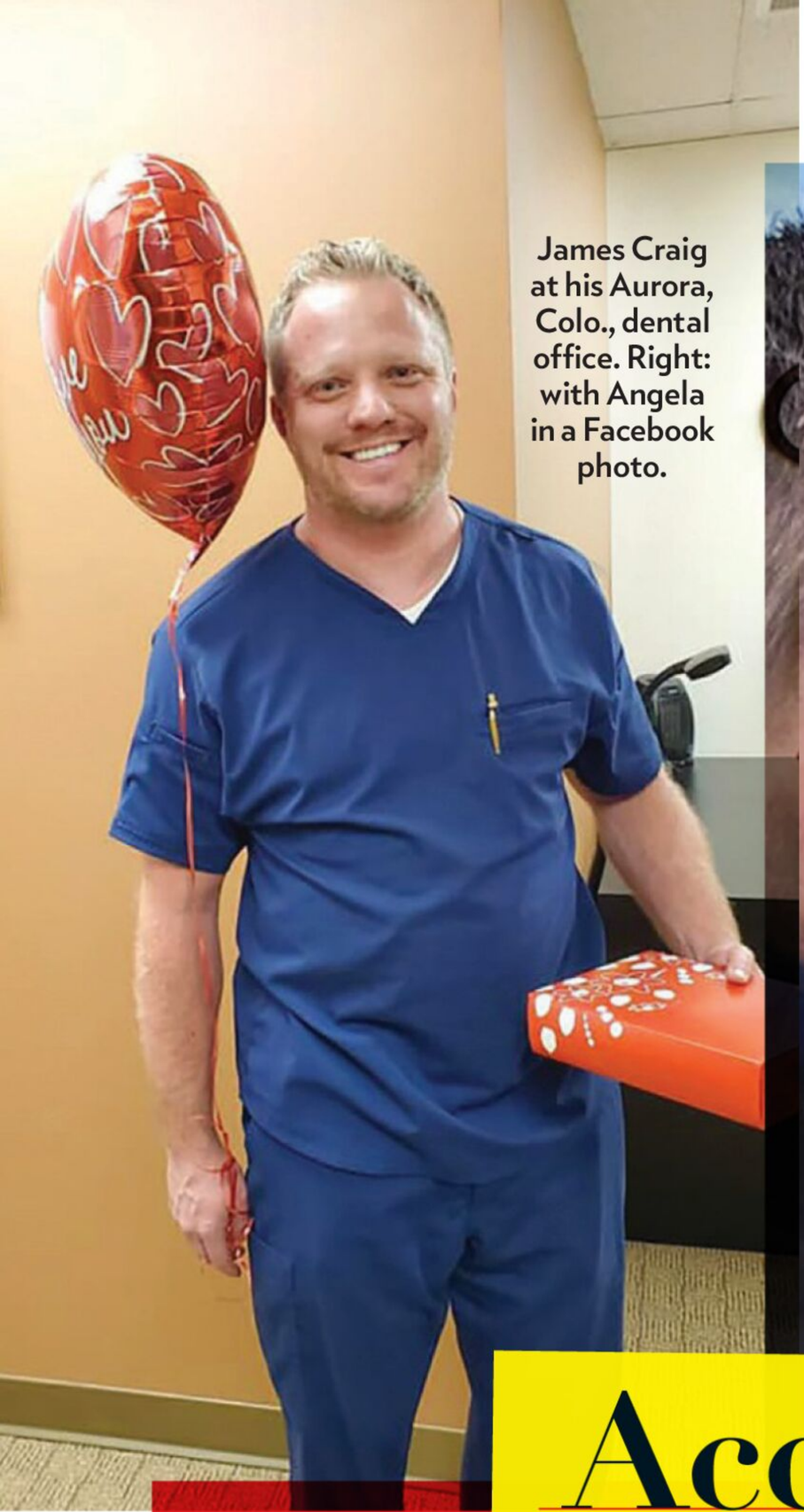
—TASIA TAYLOR

More to Love The kids are "so excited" to welcome a new sibling, says Tasia (with Drew, Tamiray, Rory and their 12-year-old foster son in Texas in July).

COURTESY TAYLOR FAMILY (2)

RACE YOU TO THE BREAKFAST TABLE.

© Cinnamon Toast Crunch. For more information, visit cinnamontoastcrunch.com.



James Craig at his Aurora, Colo., dental office. Right: with Angela in a Facebook photo.

Accused *of* Poisoning H

KILLER DEN

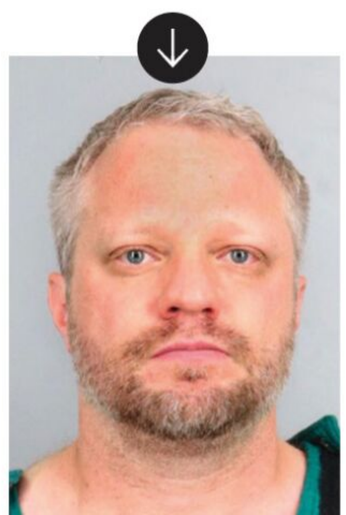
AUTHORITIES SAY JAMES CRAIG SPIKED WIFE ANGELA'S PROTEIN SHAKES WITH ARSENIC INSURANCE AND START A RELATIONSHIP WITH ANOTHER WOMAN. INSIDE THE SHOCKING

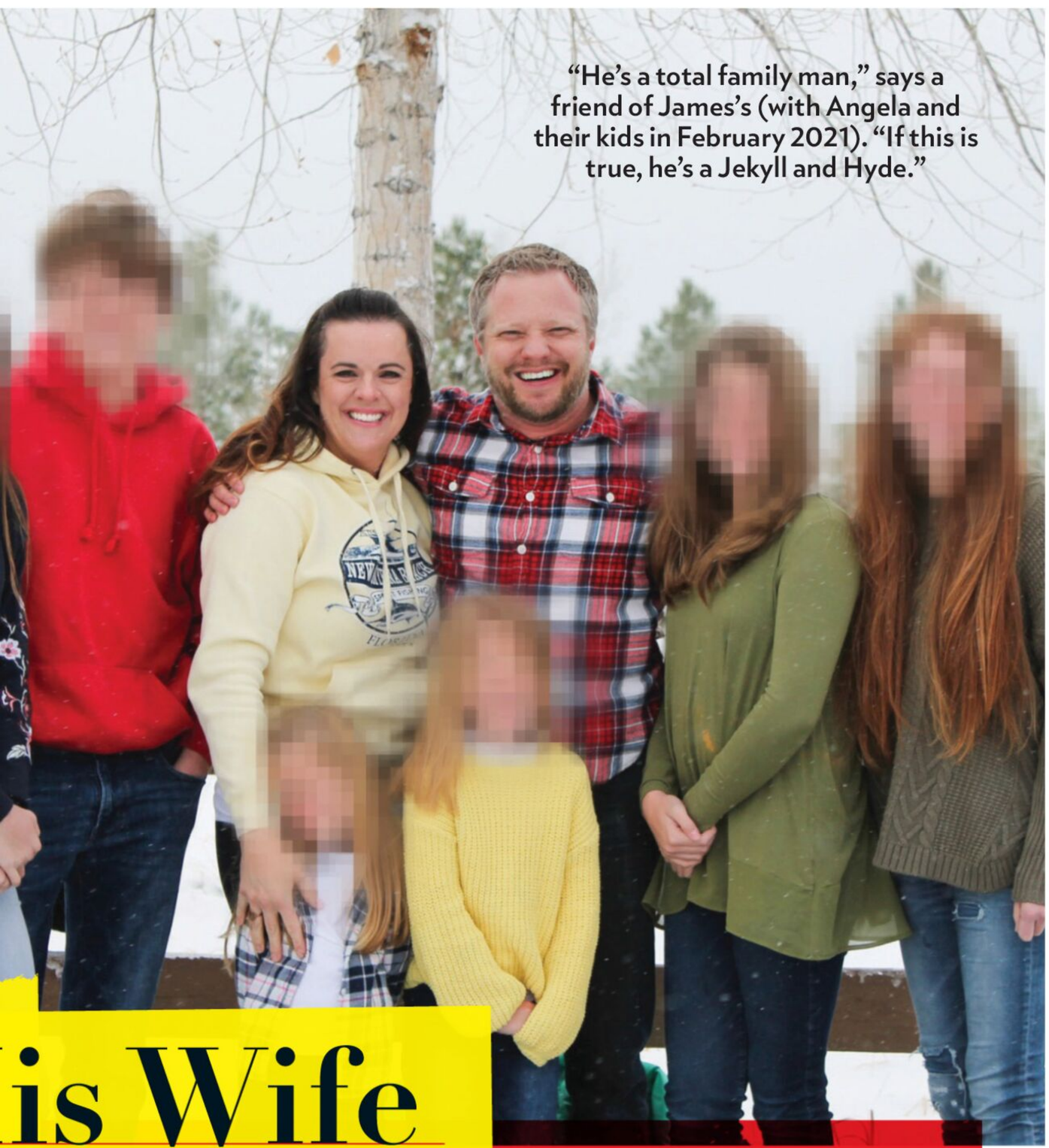
A stay-at-home mom of six, Angela Craig was the kind of person who brightened the rooms she walked into. Vibrant and quick-witted, she found ways to cheer up her pals and make hard times easier. When her friend Jennifer Davis was in the hospital being monitored for a neurological condition in July 2022, Angela stopped by to drop off crayons, markers and coloring books. She pointed to the electrodes attached to wires all over Davis's head, and "she commented about what a good look it was for me," Davis recalls with a laugh. "She could make any situation fun, that's just who she was. She was always there for you."

It's a memory Davis says she'll "treasure" and one of the last times she saw her friend. On March 15, 2023, Angela, 43, was admitted to the hospital at University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus near her home in Aurora, Colo., where she suffered a seizure and was placed on life support before being pronounced dead on March 18. The next day police arrested her husband, James Craig, 45, on charges of first-degree murder. (James hasn't entered a plea and is scheduled for arraignment on Aug. 29.) Authorities allege that James, a dentist, poisoned Angela's smoothies. The motive? More than $3 million in insurance and a budding love affair with a Texas orthodontist he had met at a Las Vegas convention in 2023,

UNDER ARREST

James Craig (in a mug shot) is charged with first-degree murder and tampering with physical evidence.





"He's a total family man," says a friend of James's (with Angela and their kids in February 2021). "If this is true, he's a Jekyll and Hyde."

is Wife

TIST?

AND CYANIDE IN A PLOT TO COLLECT
CASE *By* **CHRISTINE PELISEK**

COUNTERCLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: AURORA POLICE DEPARTMENT; CHRISTOPHER OQUENDO FOR THE DAILYMAIL.COM; AURORA POLICE DEPARTMENT

according to police. "This murder," says Aurora Police Department Division Chief Mark Hildebrand, "was heinous, complex and calculated."

The case has shattered the couple's close-knit community, where they were Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints members. Married in Kansas in 1999, the Craigs settled in Denver, where Angela was a choir director and devoted mom to their six children, ages 21 to 9: Toliver, Miriam "Mira," Annabelle, Cleo, Nora and Violet. James was a popular dentist who handed out fresh-baked cookies to patients.

But the couple were apparently hiding dark secrets. According to the probable-cause affidavit filed by police when James was arrested, Angela told her sister Toni Kofoed that James was obsessed with pornography and had multiple affairs. Chillingly, she also allegedly told Toni that James tried to drug her years ago. When she discovered it, he told her he was planning to die by suicide and drugged her because he didn't want her to attempt to stop him.

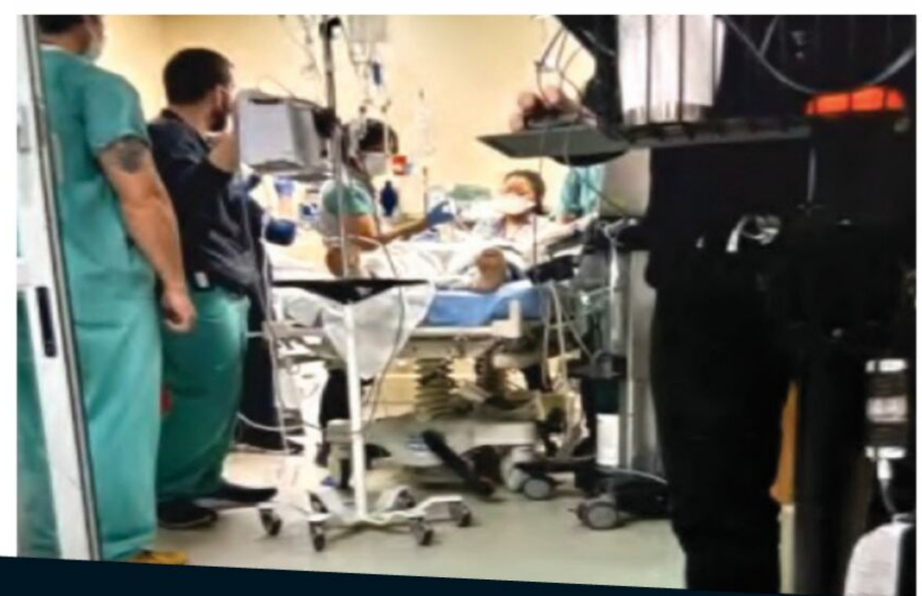
'ANGELA WAS JUST A VERY CARING PERSON'
—LAURA PACKARD, FAMILY FRIEND

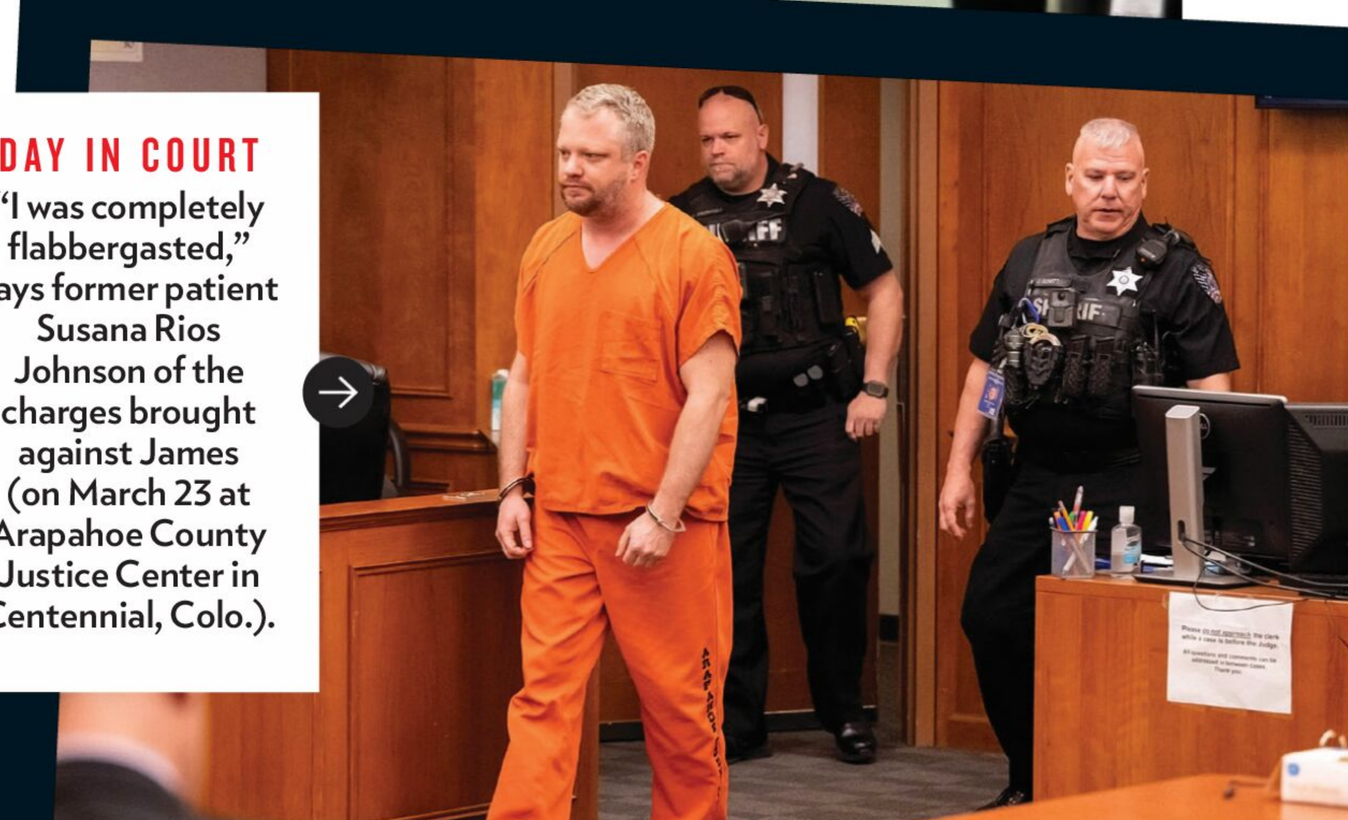
Investigators believe James began plotting Angela's murder on or before Feb. 27, 2023, when they say he ordered arsenic online and searched "how to make murder look like a heart attack." They allege he also ordered cyanide and had it delivered to his dental office, where one of his coworkers saw it and reported it to a supervisor who tipped off the police.

After James's arrest, the Craigs' three youngest children began living with one of James's brothers out of state, and the others plan to attend college in the fall. Says Steffan Tubbs, a friend and former patient of James's: "I think about how Angela died, and it's just horrible. And then there's the kids—so many lives destroyed."

With reporting by **TRISTAN BALAGTAS**

A MYSTERIOUS, SUDDEN ILLNESS
Before Angela (with doctors in March 2023) was admitted, she texted her husband, "I feel drugged."





DAY IN COURT
"I was completely flabbergasted," says former patient Susana Rios Johnson of the charges brought against James (on March 23 at Arapahoe County Justice Center in Centennial, Colo.).

A Legacy of Light

"We started every day with gratitude," John Easterling (right, with Chloe Lattanzi at home in Santa Ynez on Aug. 1) says of life with Newton-John. "She could always see joy."

REMEMBERING OLIVIA NEWTON-JOHN 1 YEAR LATER

EXCLUSIVE People EXCLUSIVE

'We Feel Her Ev

HAIR & MAKEUP & GROOMING: PAULINE MALLARI; STYLIST: HEIDI MEEK/THE WALL GROUP; TOP: TICTOC; JEANS: GUESS; SHOES: BIRKENSTOCK; NEWTON-JOHN INSET: MARK SULLIVAN BRADLEY

THE ICON'S HUSBAND & DAUGHTER REFLECT ON LIFE WITHOUT HER—AND THE LOVE THAT REMAINS

By JANINE RUBENSTEIN

Photographs by ELIZABETH WEINBERG

ery Single Day'

Over the past year, Olivia Newton-John's loved ones haven't just sensed the late icon's presence—they've seen it too. "Two weeks after she passed, my phone accidentally took a picture of my dog, and there floating by his head was this little blue orb, the same color as this," says her daughter Chloe Lattanzi, 37, touching an aquamarine pendant necklace her stepdad, John Easterling, 71, had once given her mom, who then gifted it to her before she died last August. "Mom and I had talked years back. We'd watch these paranormal shows, and I'd say, 'You gotta show up for me.' And she was like, 'I'll show up as one of those orb things.'"

Easterling has had similar encounters. Two months ago he visited Peru with his wife's ashes to hold a private ceremony at the spot where they said "I do," commemorating what would have been their 15th wedding anniversary. "I took a picture, and this blue orb is right between my eyes," he says, showing off the image on his phone. "It's been a supernatural year."

On Aug. 8, 2022, Newton-John died peacefully at age 73 at her home in Santa Ynez, Calif., after a 30-year

journey with breast cancer. (First diagnosed with the disease in 1992, she privately faced a recurrence in 2013 before publicly revealing the cancer had metastasized to her sacrum in 2017.) While the world lost a beloved movie and music star—revered for her role as Sandy in *Grease*, timeless pop hits like "Physical" and a famously positive attitude in the face of multiple cancer diagnoses—Lattanzi and Easterling lost the person they loved most. "There's no replacing her," says Easterling.

Over the past year Lattanzi, Newton-John's only child, with ex-husband Matt Lattanzi, and Easterling came together to honor the late legend, first with a private service for family and close friends in California, followed by a star-studded state funeral in her home country of Australia in February. In October they'll lead her annual Olivia's Walk for Wellness in Melbourne to raise funds for the Olivia Newton-John Wellness Centre and lifesaving cancer research (see box). "It's an honor," Lattanzi says of continuing her mom's advocacy. "I know it's going to be really hard emotionally, but I'm excited to do this for her." Adds Easterling: "I have to stop and just be grateful. She wants us to live life and love life and never lose sight of the good things."

For years Newton-John used that same mantra while she defied the odds. After announcing in 2017 that her cancer had returned, the star remained optimistic despite a sobering prognosis.

Bonded by Love
After Newton-John's death, "we're closer," says Easterling (with Lattanzi at the star's Tiffany-blue piano in the living room of her Santa Ynez home).

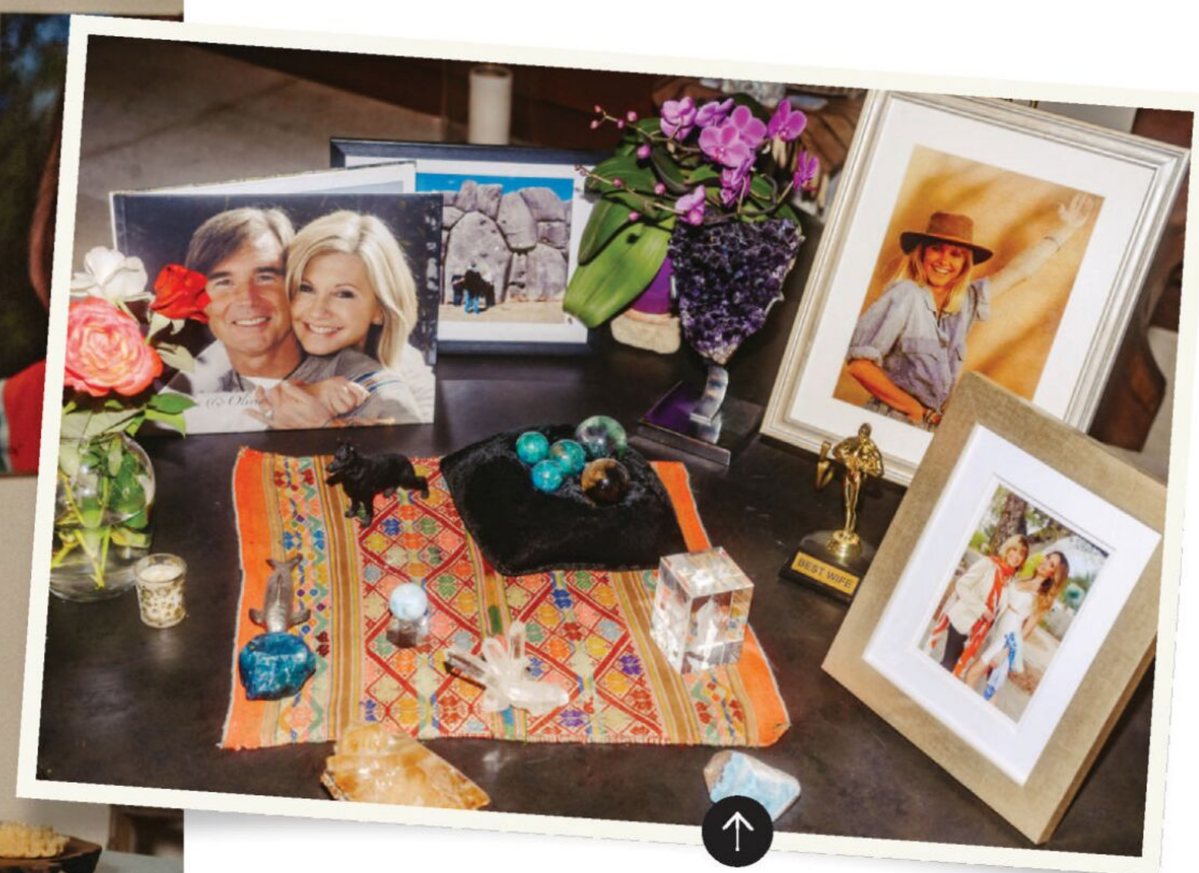
Olivia's Legacy
Easterling has taken the reins of Newton-John's foundation (onjfoundationfund.org), and the Wellness Centre is "my primary focus," says Lattanzi (above, with her mom and stepdad on the star's last walk, in 2019). Left: Newton-John and politician Denis Napthine celebrate the center's opening in 2013.

"I don't think I imagined living this long! I feel very blessed," Newton-John—who merged traditional cancer treatments with homeopathic practices and remedies championed by Easterling, an herbalist and naturopathic entrepreneur—told *People* in 2021. Even as Newton-John's condition declined, her positive spirit endured. "She loved her spot outside her bedroom to watch the birds," says Lattanzi, who spent her mom's final year by her side with the support of her husband, James Driskill. "There was a lot of intimacy. My mom was very independent, so to be let in and say '*I'm* going to take care of you and mother you' was very special."

While it wasn't always easy, Newton-John also held on to her sense of humor. "She got sick of us bringing stuff in sometimes, which was funny," Lattanzi says, recalling an instance when Easterling had cooked up a new herbal concoction for her mom to try. "She tasted it and was like, 'John has no taste buds.'" Adds Easterling with a laugh: "It was so delicious."

After she'd spent some time in the hospital near the end, "we were like, 'She doesn't want to be

LEFT, FROM BOTTOM: ROBERT CIANFLONE/GETTY IMAGES; COURTESY ONJ CANCER CENTRE



A Husband's Memories
Easterling keeps a table with his wife's favorite things. "We made a commitment to love each other forever or until the end of time, whichever came last," he says. "We're still in that time frame."

here,'" says Lattanzi, and they brought Newton-John back home. "We wanted to get her home to the animals, to the birds." It was there, at her and Easterling's serene valley hideaway surrounded by mountains, that Newton-John took her last breath. "[Her caregiver] Carol says she opened her eyes, looked at me and mouthed 'I love you.' That's a very special last memory for me," Lattanzi says.

In the wake of her loss, Lattanzi—who has been open about past struggles with disordered eating and depression—was in shock. "We had a symbiotic relationship," she says. "I've battled with a lot of things in my life. She'd always be like, 'You're so powerful and strong and magnificent.'" In her heartbreak, Lattanzi, a singer like her mom, has been buoyed by an otherworldly sense of encouragement. "I've heard her be like, 'You are my daughter. You are carrying the torch,'" says Lattanzi, who recorded the 2021 duet "Window in the Wall" with Newton-John. "I know she's wrapping her wings around me, and I believe in myself now. We feel her every single day."

While grieving his wife, Easterling holds tight to the memories they made together. Before they met, he had never even seen *Grease*—though Newton-John would rectify that years later during a movie night on John Travolta's private jet. Back in the mid-2000s the two were both working with an environmental nonprofit when Newton-John invited Easterling—who was then living in Florida—to her show in Miami. "She walked out onstage singing 'Grace and Gratitude,'

'She was an extraordinarily courageous woman'
—JOHN EASTERLING ON OLIVIA NEWTON-JOHN

and people around me were crying," he recalls. "It hit me straight in the heart: *She's a healer.*" Their connection turned romantic when she accompanied him on a trip to the Amazon in Peru in 2007, one of many adventures they shared throughout their relationship. "These things aren't easy," Easterling says of mourning Newton-John. But returning to their "special place" this year offered some perspective: "It lightened my heart and created a very strong focus forward. I had 15 years with this extraordinary human being. That experience itself is worth a lifetime."

Both Lattanzi and Easterling were overwhelmed by the love that came pouring in from fans after Newton-John's death. The attention, her daughter acknowledges, is nothing new. "I remember at 5 years old, we were driving to one of her concerts, and all these people were jumping on the car. That's the first time I was like, 'There's something a little different about my life.'" But despite Newton-John's superstardom, Lattanzi always felt safe with her mom. "When people would ask, 'What's it like having Olivia Newton-John as your mom?' I'd be like, 'You mean Mommy? She makes me pancakes and gives me snuggles.' Me and John both, we don't see her like that. We see her as *her*."

Since Newton-John's death, her daughter and her widower have grown closer than ever. "It wasn't like we used to hang out a lot individually," says Easterling. "Now we're spending time together and really getting to know each other." Adds Lattanzi: "It's special. I love him so much." Carrying on and finding purpose in their grief is "exactly what Olivia would want," Easterling says. "We have the best of her to drive us forward." ●

JESSE WILLIAMS

A TV STAR'S UNEXPECTED JOURNEY

FROM TEACHING HIGH SCHOOL HISTORY TO STARRING ON *ONLY MURDERS IN THE BUILDING*, THE *GREY'S ANATOMY* ALUM AND FATHER OF TWO IS ON A MISSION TO KEEP LEARNING

By **JP MANGALINDAN**

TINA TURNBOW; INSET: PATRICK HARBRON/HULU

When Jesse Williams was a child, watching TV was a privilege—not a right. The Williams household had one broken television set that aired three channels, and he and his two younger brothers were given two hours a week of "TV time." But some nights, when the young boy felt especially daring, he would sneak downstairs to catch Steve Martin or Martin Short whenever they were on *Saturday Night Live*. "Each of them were, independently and together, such comedy pillars to me," Williams says, chatting over the phone July 10 while visiting his mom in Maine.

Now Williams, 42, is working alongside both Martin and Short on the third season of *Only Murders in the Building* (Tuesdays on Hulu). "It was surreal," he admits. "It may be the first time I've ever been like, 'Oh, this is the pinch-yourself moment.'" The father of two has had a few pinch-worthy moments throughout his career. Playing Dr. Jackson Avery on *Grey's Anatomy* for 12 years made him a fixture in millions of homes, while his turn as a gay baseball player in the Broadway play *Take Me Out* cemented his place in the theater community with a well-deserved Tony nomination.

←

HIS BIG MOVE

"We had a lot of fun together," he says of joining Selena Gomez (far left) and the cast of *Only Murders in the Building*.

But the Chicago-born Williams didn't always dream of becoming an actor. In fact, he once had his heart set on being a civil rights attorney. His mother, Johanna, a potter, and father,

Reginald, a factory worker turned teacher, passed along their own love for politics and books. "I had a voracious appetite for reading," Williams recalls. "I wrote a book as a child, and I won the Chicago Young Author Award and a lunch with the mayor, Harold Washington, the first Black mayor of Chicago." But Chicago in the 1980s was plagued by drug abuse and gang violence, which gave Williams and his "wonderful" circle of friends a different kind of education. "We were outside all the time," he explains. "You had to be alert. We were in close contact with the most beaten-up elements of society at a very young age. I learned a tremendous amount of stuff about social awareness and survival and poverty."

'I AM NOT SOMEBODY WHO LOOKS TO BE THE BIG FISH IN A SMALL POND'

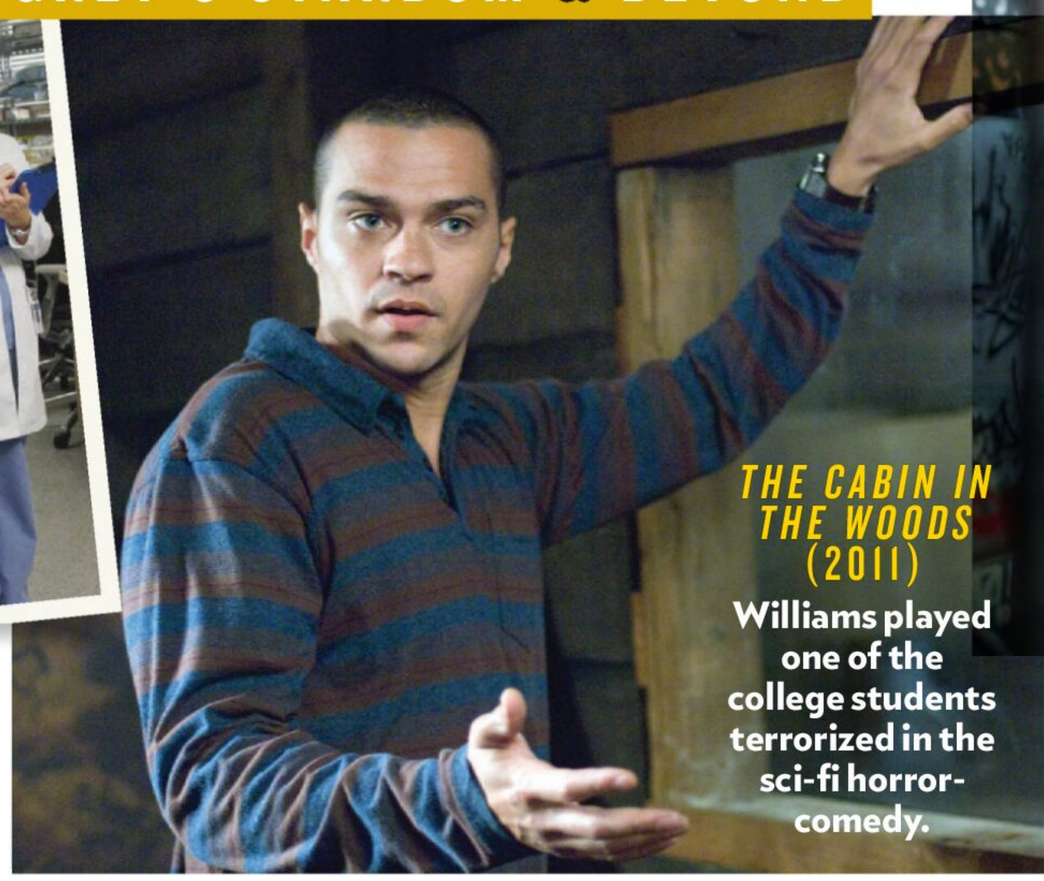
Moving to the suburbs of Massachusetts in junior high led to new challenges. While Williams enjoyed a level of freedom he hadn't felt in Chicago, he says he "encountered a whole lot of racism" as a biracial kid in a mostly White area. "You're on the bus, you're at school, you're in class, you're in the mall, there's nobody there to coddle you," Williams says. "There is a gift in that, which is figuring out how to problem-solve, how to be able to articulate your position and absorb information and try to apply it and forge relationships that are real."

After graduating from Temple University in Philadelphia, a place that returned him to a largely Black community where he felt "most at home," Williams stayed in the area and taught American and African American history in low-income public high schools for several years. He modeled and acted in commercials on the side. "It was a financial endeavor," he admits. "It was a way to make some money to help my parents. And I fell in love with it."

In 2005 Williams moved to New York City to pursue the life of an actor. Waiting tables, bartending and temping at law firms to get by, he performed in the Off-Broadway play *The Sandbox* and landed small roles on TV shows and in movies like *Law & Order, Greek* and *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2*. His first big break came in 2009 when he was cast as ambitious surgical resident Jackson Avery for a two-episode arc in season 6 of *Grey's Anatomy*, a role that show creator Shonda Rhimes eventually upgraded to series regular. The ABC medical drama, which films primarily in Los Angeles, was already a megahit by then, gripping audiences each week with the personal and medical drama of young doctors. "It was a free classroom where I was able to learn a lot," he says, pointing to his more seasoned castmates, who could "make you laugh hysterically or cry immediately. I'd just come out here on a whim." Over the course of 12 years and more than 250 episodes, Williams became a fan favorite. When he left the series, Rhimes wrote on Instagram that his "talent on this show has been powerful. What he has chosen to do with that

GREY'S STARDOM & BEYOND

GREY'S ANATOMY (2009-2021)
Williams (with, from left, Ellen Pompeo, Sandra Oh, Justin Chambers and Sarah Drew) joined the ABC hit in season 6.



THE CABIN IN THE WOODS (2011)
Williams played one of the college students terrorized in the sci-fi horror-comedy.

LITTLE FIRES EVERYWHERE (2020)
In three episodes Williams shared key scenes with Kerry Washington.

(LEFT PAGE) BOTTOM, FROM LEFT: PHOTOFEST; EVERETT; ERIN SIMKIN/HULU; CATHERINE WESSEL; LILIANE LATHAN/ABC/GETTY IMAGES; (RIGHT PAGE) TOP LEFT: TINA TURNBOW

before he was famous

In 2008 Williams appeared on the college dramedy series *Greek* as Drew Collins, whom Ashleigh (Amber Stevens West) dubbed "the Hotness Monster." "It's catchy," he says. "It's not my comfort zone, but I took it in good humor."

power has been culture-shifting."

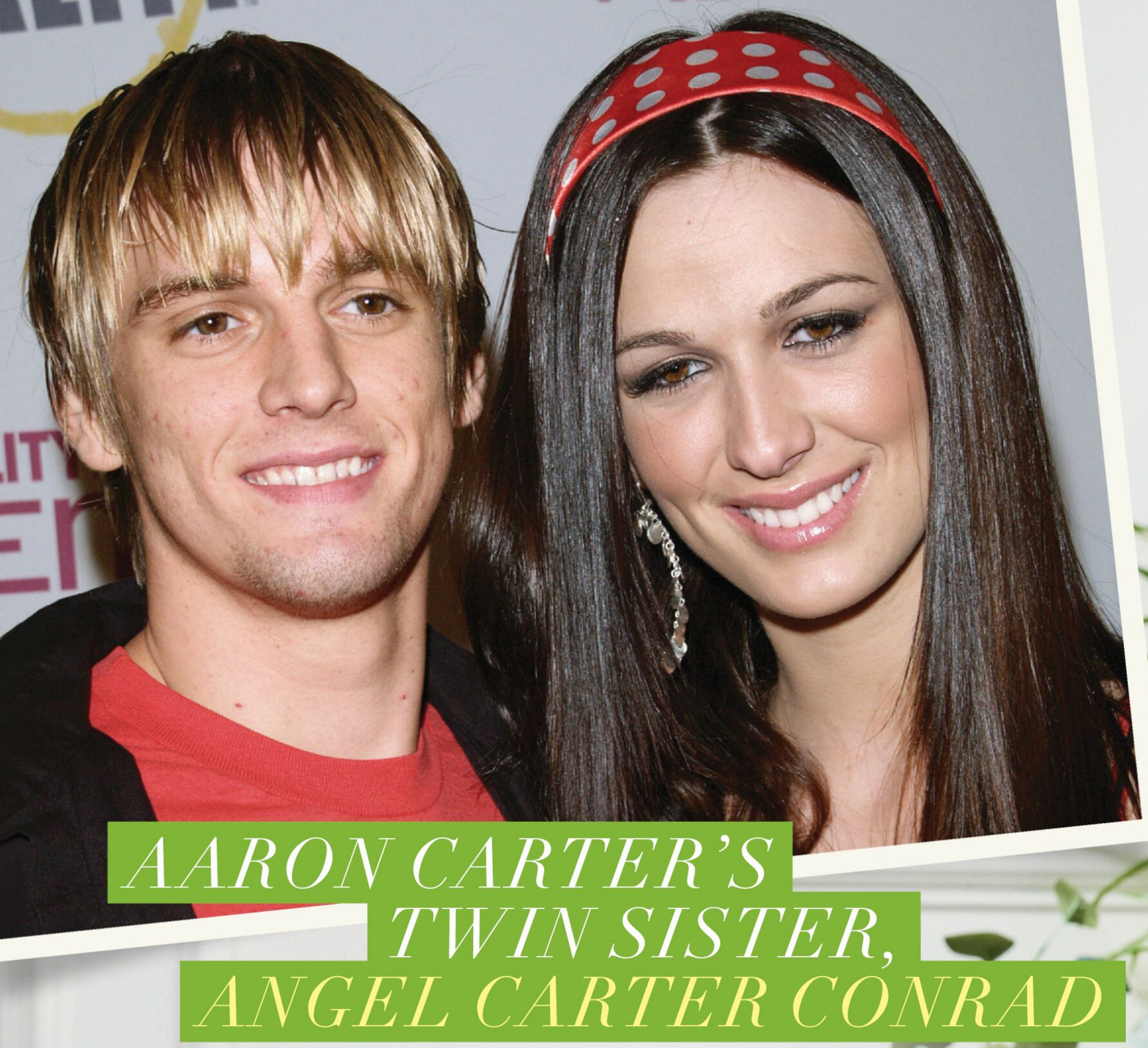
Williams chose to test his skills on Broadway, starring in the revival of *Take Me Out* as Darren Lemming, a star baseball player who comes out in the prime of his career. "I wished I could say, 'I feel confident about my work,' but I was not," he admits. "The Tony nomination was one of several things that has continued to make me feel welcome in a place that I actually found kind of intimidating and very much is worthy of my respect. Once it happened, it was a sense of relief. It was a step forward on the path."

While Williams is open to making more appearances on *Grey's Anatomy* and directing future episodes, he's excited to take on new projects, like joining Martin, Short and Selena Gomez on *Only Murders in the Building*. Meryl Streep, Paul Rudd and Matthew Broderick also costar on the comedic mystery series this season. "You often hear 'Don't meet your heroes,' but this was something different. I was just in awe of their work ethic and how much they gave constantly," says Williams, who plays Tobert, a documentarian who befriends Gomez's Mabel. "I'm not somebody who looks to be the big fish in a small pond. I like to learn. I like to be wrong. I like to learn from others. That's how I see my career opportunities."

Williams also finds joy in his personal life: He shares custody of children Sadie, 9, and Maceo, 8, with his ex-wife Aryn Drake-Lee (they split up in 2017) and has been dating L.A. Fashion Week president Ciarra Pardo, 44. As his parents did with him, Williams emphasizes the importance of education with his kids, but he also shares his other passions, taking them sailing and on wilderness trips. "We do everything together," he says. "They're my favorite people. They're everything to me." ●

***TAKE ME OUT* (2022-2023)**
His Tony nomination for the play (with Patrick J. Adams and Jesse Tyler Ferguson) was a "nice badge of credibility," he says.

***GREY'S ANATOMY* (2022)**
"I'm an alumnus of the university," Williams says of returning to the set to direct, as he did in past seasons, including season 19.



The Brother She Loved

"He could walk into a room and light up the space," says Angel (at her L.A. home on July 21). Inset: with Aaron in 2006.

AARON CARTER'S TWIN SISTER, ANGEL CARTER CONRAD

'My Brother Deserves to Be Here'

IN AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW, THE MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATE SHARES HER GRIEF OVER SINGER AARON CARTER'S DRUG-RELATED DROWNING—AND HOW SHE'S WORKING TO HELP OTHERS AVOID SIMILAR TRAGEDIES

By **JOHNNY DODD**

Photographs by **YURI HASEGAWA**

HAIR: DAVID GARDNER/PHYTO PARIS/EXCLUSIVE ARTISTS; MAKEUP: CARLENE KEARNS; STYLIST: HEIDI MEEK/THE WALL GROUP; INSET: MICHAEL TRAN/FILMMAGIC

He was a tween sensation, who by age 12 had a triple platinum album and was opening for Britney Spears and the Backstreet Boys. But Aaron Carter's career began to wane as he hit his mid-teens, and his life was ultimately destroyed by drugs and mental illness. During his final, chaotic years, his twin sister, Angel, watched helplessly as her brother live streamed increasingly disturbing videos of himself, surrounded by guns and inhaling compressed gas from canisters of canned air while telling his fans how his family and others were plotting to kill him. "I just kept waiting for him to snap out of it," says Angel, fighting back tears, "but he never did."

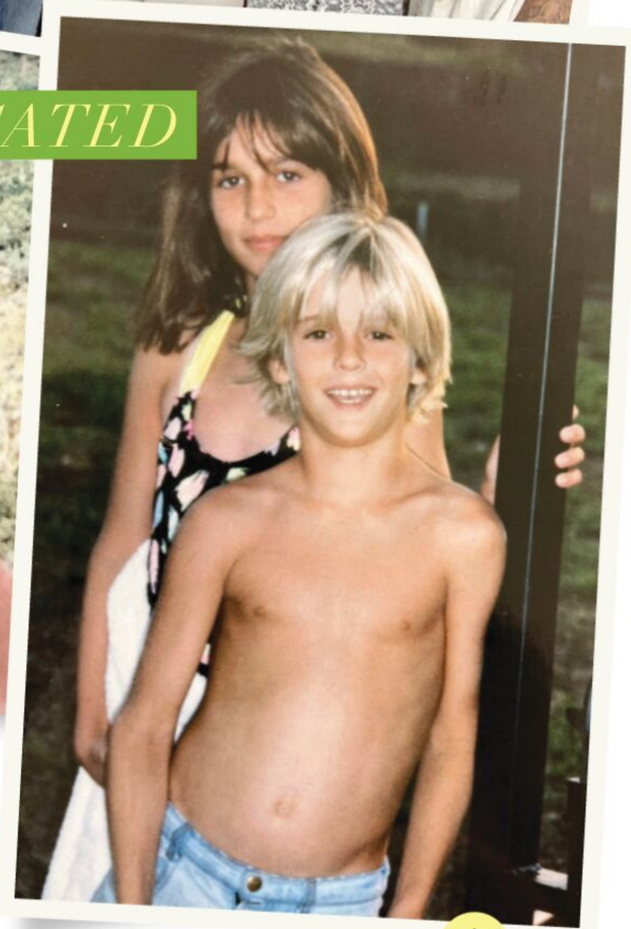
Two days before Aaron's body was discovered in a bathtub inside his Lancaster, Calif., home last November, surrounded by empty cans of compressed air and prescription pill bottles, Angel phoned her 34-year-old brother, begging him to tell her how she could help him—but Aaron denied anything was wrong. "He wanted so badly to be happy," she says. "He really fought to the end, but he just had too many problems to be fixed. He'd become this person who we no longer recognized. I don't even think he recognized himself."

Today Angel, 35, is determined to have something good come from the tragic death of her brother, who, along with his four siblings, struggled to overcome the trauma they endured growing up. "Our childhood was filled with emotional abuse, dysfunction and addiction," she says. In an effort to break what she calls the "generational" cycle, Angel—a doting mom to her 4-year-old daughter Harper, whom she shares with her husband of nearly 12 years, Corey Conrad, 35—has begun working with the children's mental health organization On Our Sleeves (see sidebar), which focuses on helping parents and caregivers have

House of Carters
The siblings (from left, Bobbie Jean, Leslie, Nick, Angel and Aaron) in 2006, promoting their reality TV show.

THEIR COMPLICATED FAMILY

'We Were Broken'
"There was so much dysfunction," says Angel (with Aaron and their parents in 2000). "Everyone was in survival mode."



Unshakable Bond
"He just wanted to be loved so badly and wanted people to be proud of him," says Angel (with her twin in 1995).

healthy conversations with their kids about their feelings. "It's much easier to raise a strong child than to fix a broken adult," says Angel. "Something positive has to come from all this. I refuse to allow Aaron to have died in vain."

Robert Carter and Jane Schneck (she later remarried) raised their five children in Florida, where they ran a Tampa retirement home called the Garden Villas. But the living was far from tranquil. Angel says that her parents abused alcohol, creating a toxic family dynamic that only worsened when Nick joined the Backstreet Boys in 1993 and was launched into stardom at the age of 13. Four years later 9-year-old Aaron's solo career began to explode. "Fame and money took over our family," says Angel. "As exciting as it was to have our brothers touring the world, life at home was filled with chaos because of my parents' drinking and fighting.... There was always so much anxiety and fear and not knowing what was going to happen next." The pressures of stardom took a heavy toll—on Aaron in particular. "He just wanted to be home with his friends and be a kid, but he was constantly being told, 'If you go on this tour, we'll buy you a boat or a diamond necklace,'" recalls Angel. "So when he turned 18, he finally said, 'I'm never going to let anybody tell me what to do again.'"

In the meantime Angel, who earned her high school diploma at age 15, had found an escape from her home life with her friends' families. "Sitting down and having dinners with them—feeling a sense of belonging—ultimately saved me," she says. In turn, she desperately tried to provide that same sense of security to Aaron, as she watched him fall into addiction. "Aaron had so many enablers in his life feeding his paranoia. I tried relentlessly to help him, but he didn't want that," she says, recalling how her efforts to "protect" him just drove them further apart. "He didn't want me to be his mom. He wanted me to be his sister."

All five Carter siblings were reunited in 2006 in L.A. to film the reality show *House of Carters,* which lasted a single season. "It was the first time we'd all lived in a home together in years," says Angel, who was 19 at the time. "Everyone had all these unresolved feelings, and we were taking it out on each other. There was a lot of chaos." On the last day of filming, she says, Nick sat them down and offered to pay for therapy for each of them. "I was the only one who said, 'I'll go,'" she says. "And I've been in therapy ever since. That was a defining moment for me."

Aaron's spiral—already evident in a handful of arrests for driving under the influence and drug possession—was exacerbated by the 2012 overdose death of his 25-year-old sister Leslie, who struggled with a range of mental health issues, and his dad's sudden death from an apparent heart attack in 2017 at age 65. "I always felt like that was the

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: VAUGHN YOUTZ/ZUMA; COURTESY ANGEL CARTER(2)

Conversation Starters
On Our Sleeves's downloadable flash cards offer parents tips and questions for talking to kids about their feelings.

HELPING KIDS TALK ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH

Since her brother's death, Angel has become convinced that the best way to prevent similar tragedies is to spread the word about the important role parents can play in their children's mental health. She has teamed up with the group On Our Sleeves to help break "the stigma surrounding mental health and not being able to talk to children about how they're feeling," she says. According to the CDC, one in five children has an impairing mental disorder—but fewer than half get the treatment they need. For more information, visit onoursleeves.org.

Caring Mother
"I'm open with her [about Aaron] to a certain degree," says Angel (with daughter Harper). "I show her photos. She knows he's in heaven."

beginning of the end," say Angel. "Aaron was already in a bad place, but it was like a domino effect."

Still, there were glimmers of hope along the way. After his father's death, a severely emaciated Aaron checked himself into rehab. "That was the best day of my life," says Angel, who would often sit in front of the Malibu facility in her car "just because I wanted to feel close" to Aaron. "I kept telling myself, 'He's going to be okay.'" He later confessed to his sister that physicians had diagnosed him with schizophrenia and multiple personality disorder. In fact Angel and Nick were forced to file restraining orders against Aaron in 2019 because he had said that he harbored thoughts of killing children and Nick's wife. On Nov. 22, 2021, Aaron welcomed a child of his own, son Prince, with his on-and-off fiancée Melanie Martin. After the couple split, he rejected what some consider a last-ditch effort to save himself: a stay at a rehab facility in Utah. Instead he chose to remain in Lancaster so that he could fight for custody of his son, a case he ultimately lost because of domestic-violence and drug concerns.

A little less than a year later, on Nov. 5, 2022, Angel got the news she'd been dreading. Aaron's body had been discovered by his housekeeper, who later told his sister that she'd spent an hour reading the Bible and praying with Aaron the day before he died. In March Schneck released photos of Aaron's death scene, insisting that her son had been receiving death threats and accusing authorities of dismissing her suspicions; a month later officials ruled his death as accidental, the result of drowning due to ingesting drugs and inhaling gas. "It was a true invasion of privacy and something that Aaron would've never wanted the public to see," says Angel, who hasn't spoken to her mother since. "Aaron dying was the worst possible outcome for all of us. My brother deserves to be here."

> 'I want Aaron's legacy to be more than those final years of his life'
> —ANGEL CARTER CONRAD

And for Angel in many ways he still is. "On Mother's Day," she says, "I woke up at 5 a.m. in the middle of a dream of Aaron singing this beautiful melody, telling me, 'I'm always going to be by your side.' And he's with me." On July 28 Angel—along with her husband, a few close friends and the pastor from their church—laid Aaron to rest, burying his ashes in an L.A. cemetery. "It was important for me to let the noise calm down first," she says. "It was simple and peaceful because Aaron's life never had much peace. It was my last act of love. It was my last way to protect him." ●

EXCLUSIVE People EXCLUSIVE

BETHANY JOY LENZ

'Hard Things Are Meant to Be Shared'

THE *ONE TREE HILL* STAR OPENS UP ABOUT HER REVEALING NEW SINGLE AND HER PAINFUL PAST

By **JP MANGALINDAN**

A Happy New Chapter
Lenz says she's been "writing nonstop" since moving to Nashville.

When Bethany Joy Lenz moved to Nashville last summer, the actress and singer-songwriter was instantly inspired. She wrote the lively track "Strawberries"—in which she ponders her insecurities and the unpredictability of life and love—in just two hours. "It felt like the perfect way to introduce myself, my sound and my playful energy to the music scene there," she says.

New music isn't the only thing keeping Lenz, 42, busy lately. She has a 12-year-old daughter, Maria Rose, with ex-husband Michael Galeotti, and she hosts the podcast *Drama Queens* alongside *One Tree Hill* costars Sophia Bush and Hilarie Burton. Lenz is also creating a newspaper for women, *Modern Vintage News*, which launches in September. And she's working on a memoir that will detail her life's ups and downs—including her years in a cult. "There's a lot to tell," she says.

Until the book is published, she's sharing only a few details of that traumatic experience: She says her 10 years in a cult (which she hasn't named) overlapped with her years on *OTH* and involved "spiritual abuse." She adds that she has had "lots of therapy" over nearly a decade to move forward. "Recovery looks different for everyone, depending on your experience of trauma," says Lenz. "I had to start from a baseline of my personal understanding of God and the experiences I had had. And then there was a lot of going back to who I was before and remembering that, and then acknowledging that there was so much I just didn't know."

A MUSICIAN STAYING TRUE

Lenz (left, in February) strives to write songs that feel "authentic," like her single "Strawberries" (out Aug. 18). "As women, we often sit in this place of comparison," she says. "The song is a fun, playful way to address those insecurities but also come out on top with some confidence and laughter."

'Exploring the memories… can be challenging—but I'm doing it'

While the writing often flows smoothly, revisiting painful times is difficult, she says: "I'm a writer at heart, so turning a phrase is easy for me. Exploring the memories, and really facing them, can be challenging—but I'm doing it."

Born in Hollywood, Fla., Lenz acted in commercials as a teenager before appearing in the horror film *Thinner* and on the soap opera *Guiding Light*. Her career took off in 2003 when she was cast on *One Tree Hill* as kindhearted Haley James Scott, whom she played for nine seasons on the popular CW coming-of-age drama. Later she appeared on *Dexter*, on the short-lived *Suits* spinoff *Pearson* and in Hallmark movies like *Just My Type* and *An Unexpected Christmas*.

All the while, Lenz juggled acting with her passion for music, forming the folk band Everly (which split in 2012) and releasing several albums and singles. Lenz also performed on *One Tree Hill* and went on a concert tour with guest star Tyler Hilton and Gavin DeGraw, who sang the show's theme. "Back then I was trying to write pop, write for the show and figure out what my sound was," she says. "Now I just feel so connected to my own voice as a musician." She decided to move to Nashville a year ago because "I felt like I had been through enough in my life," she explains. "I was ready to really put music at the front and center."

She still finds time, though, for pals Bush and Burton and their nostalgia-fueled podcast. As they revisit *One Tree Hill*, they have used the platform to speak out about bullying and sexual harassment they allegedly experienced on-set. "It's been really valuable," says Lenz. "I've arrived at the conclusion that the hard things are meant to be shared, not hidden. They can be helpful and healing." ●

ONE TREE TRIO FOR LIFE

Hilarie Burton, Lenz and Sophia Bush (above, on *One Tree Hill* in 2004, and right, in January 2023) have stayed friends. "There are constantly new things to learn about them," Lenz says.

(ONE TREE HILL) EVERETT

50 YEARS OF HIP-HOP

HALF A CENTURY AFTER THE GENRE WAS BORN IN N.Y.C., ARTISTS CELEBRATE ITS CULTURAL IMPACT

By **BRENTON BLANCHET**

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: FABRICE COFFRINI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES; FRANK MICELOTTA/GETTY IMAGES; KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES; KAREN FUCHS/SHUTTERSTOCK; MICHAEL LEWIS/CORBIS/GETTY IMAGES; SHUTTERSTOCK; NATHAN CONGLETON/NBC/GETTY IMAGES; STEVEN FERDMAN/GETTY IMAGES; THEO WARGO/GETTY IMAGES; PRINCE WILLIAMS/WIREIMAGE; KOURY ANGELO/CONTOUR BY GETTY IMAGES; BARRON CLAIBORNE; (BACKGROUND) RICHARD NEWSTEAD/GETTY IMAGES

Snoop Dogg

Queen Latifah

Eminem

Kendrick Lamar

Megan Thee Stallion

Slick Rick

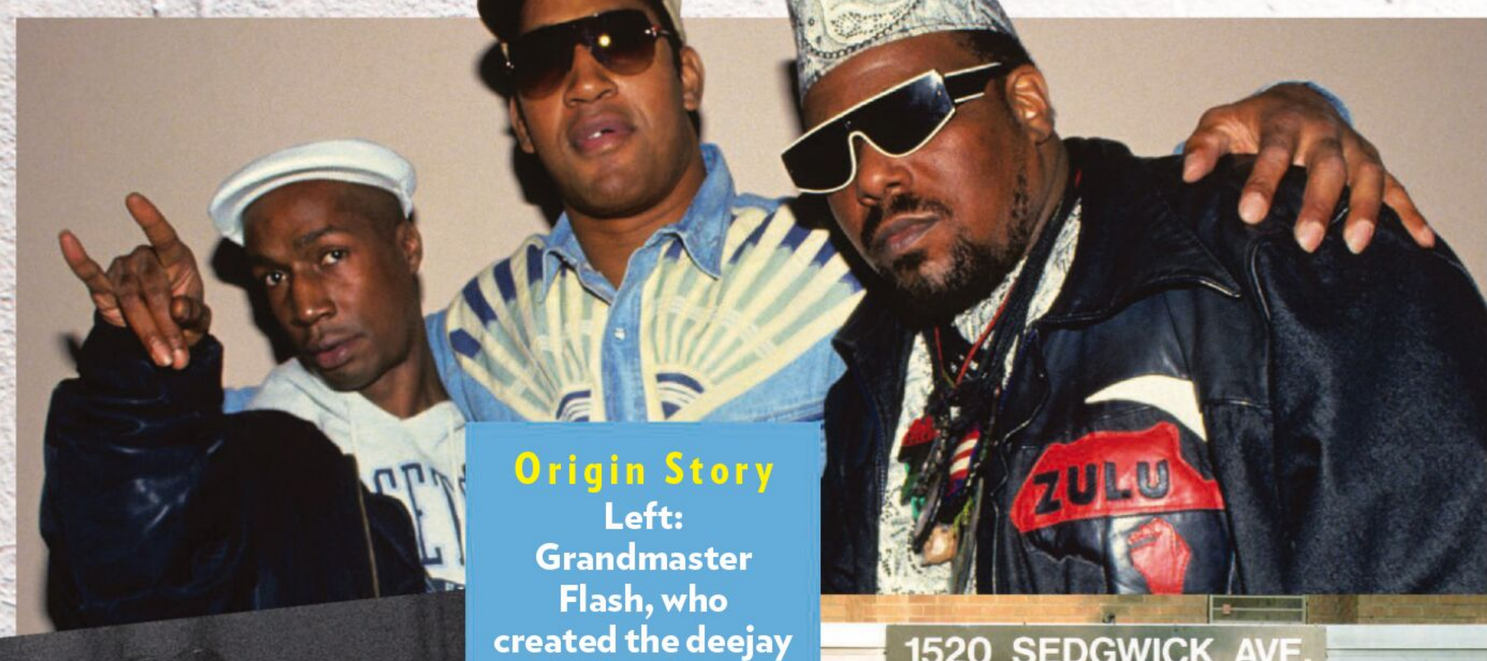
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: AL PEREIRA/MICHAEL OCHS ARCHIVES/GETTY IMAGES; ANDRES SERRANO/CONTOUR BY GETTY IMAGES; MARTIN SCHOELLER/AUGUST; FRAZER HARRISON/GETTY IMAGES; AMBER RIMA PHOTOGRAPHY/SLICK RICK MUSIC CORP.; PARAS GRIFFIN/GETTY IMAGES

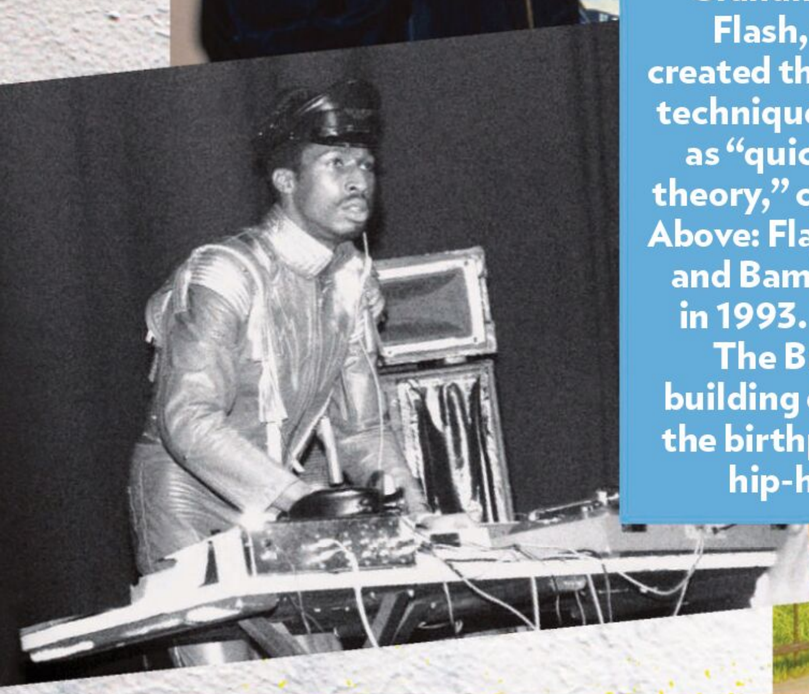
Slick Rick calls it the "purest form of art." Chance the Rapper sees it as "a testament to the tenacity of Black folks, period." Hip-hop means something different to each of the artists who have shaped the genre into a global force since the 1973 Bronx back-to-school party where it began (see box on next page). "Fifty years is special," says Wiz Khalifa, 35, of the milestone anniversary. "It means the culture has been pushing forward and redefining itself."

Six years ago hip-hop unseated rock as the dominant genre in the U.S. for the first time. Since then entrepreneurial titans Jay-Z and Diddy have joined the billionaires' club after building business empires, with hot new stars like Megan Thee Stallion and Lil Nas X following in their trailblazing footsteps. "Hip-hop is more than music," says Latto, 24, who was nominated for Best New Artist at the 2023 Grammys. "It's a way of life. It's a culture. We teach people how to dress through our music, what clubs they should be at, where they should go for vacation. It's so much deeper."

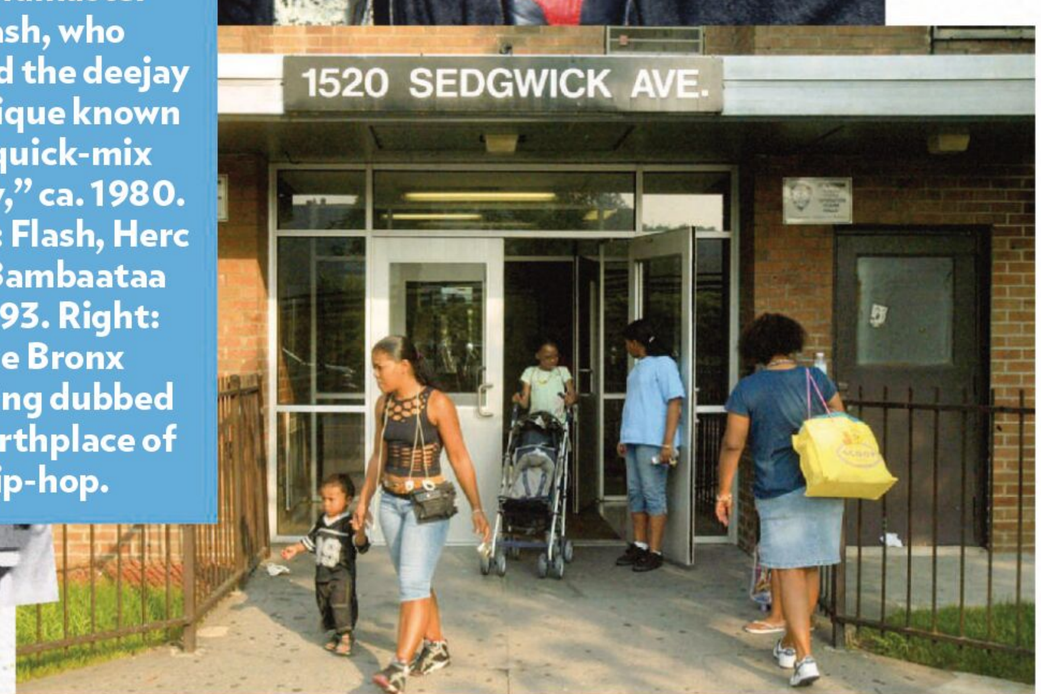
Indeed, hip-hop has disrupted the music industry and more. Since its inception, the genre—once a subculture—has permeated the zeitgeist, from dance, fashion and reality TV to politics and social justice, passing a microphone to amplify underrepresented voices. "I love that what I've given to the game is 100 percent myself, my truth, my life, my story," says Chance, 30. "Hip-hop gave that to me. Without rap, I wouldn't be Chance the Rapper." Adds Slick Rick, 58: "Hip-hop provides this runway for expressive authenticity and beautiful noise."

Looking ahead to the next half century, Ludacris, 45, sees continued global influence. "It stands on the foundation of cutting and scratching and looping and sampling and break dancing," he says of hip-hop. "Everyone is evolving, and we're on this earth to collaborate with one another. That's what hip-hop is about."





Origin Story
Left: Grandmaster Flash, who created the deejay technique known as "quick-mix theory," ca. 1980. Above: Flash, Herc and Bambaataa in 1993. Right: The Bronx building dubbed the birthplace of hip-hop.



HOW IT ALL BEGAN

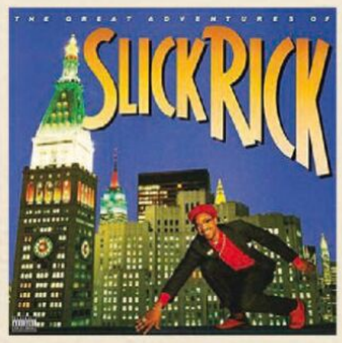
Hip-hop's 50th anniversary falls on Aug. 11, the day pioneer Clive Campbell (aka DJ Kool Herc) first spun records at a back-to-school party in the Bronx, thrown with his sister Cindy in 1973. Known by historians as the founding father of hip-hop, Herc transformed his space at 1520 Sedgwick Avenue into a playground to deejay, emcee and dance. Herc, along with Afrika Bambaataa and Grandmaster Flash—known as the "holy trinity" of hip-hop—are credited with spreading the new genre of music across New York City and beyond. "You heard it, and immediately every cell and atom in your body said, 'This is me,'" Run-DMC's Darryl "DMC" McDaniels tells *People* of when hip-hop arrived in his native Queens. "In the beginning they said it was a fad. They can't doubt us anymore."

GAME CHANGER

How *The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill* broke barriers

"I want to see hip-hop strive to be its absolute best," Lauryn Hill told *Teen People* in April 1999, two months after she made Grammys history as the first rapper to win Album of the Year (plus four more trophies). "It reaches so many people that I want to see us be as creative as we possibly can."

THE IMPACT OF AN ALBUM



Slick Rick, *The Great Adventures* (1988)
"He's different because he came with a twang, an accent," Wyclef Jean says.

Jay-Z, *The Blueprint* (2001)
"It always feels relevant," says Tinashe. "That's a testament to how good the art is."

Kanye West, *The College Dropout* (2004)
"The idea of being a success outside of education was new to me," says Chance the Rapper.

Lil Wayne, *Tha Carter III* (2008)
"He's so lyrical," says Flo Milli. "He's the type that'll make you think."

Kendrick Lamar, *Damn* (2017)
"He taught me how I need to stay in control," says Blxst. "You gotta keep your integrity."

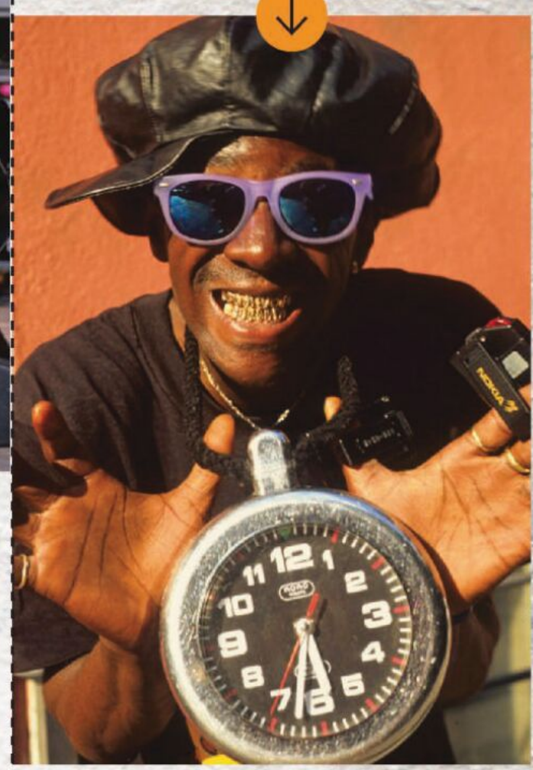
Nas, *King's Disease* (2020)
"When I work with Nas, people just look at me in a different light," Hit-Boy says of producing the LP.

CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: VINCE BUCCI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES; DAVID CORIO/MICHAEL OCHS ARCHIVES/GETTY IMAGES; KEVIN MAZUR/WIREIMAGE; PETER KRAMER/GETTY IMAGES

The Flyest in FASHION

Working It
Missy Elliott first rocked her memorable "trash bag" suit in the 1997 video for "The Rain," then a year later performing in New York (above).

Timeless Style
Flava Flav (below) and Chuck D famously wore clock chains on the cover of Public Enemy's 1988 LP *It Takes a Nation of Millions to Hold Us Back.*



Pushing It
"You were making it up as you went along," says Cheryl "Salt" James (right, with Sandra "Pepa" Denton, left, and Deidra "DJ Spinderella" Roper) of Salt-N-Pepa's street style. "That's how you create iconic looks."

Knockout Fits
LL Cool J's early years were replete with Kangol hats and plenty of bling. "By the time he dropped 'I Need Love' he was just the hottest rapper to all the ladies," says Too $hort.

She Bangs
"When I was first experimenting with my hair, the Nicki Minaj bang was the first haircut I got," Rico Nasty says of the rapper, who created characters using colorful wigs.

Hammer Time
"I'm proud of being a visionary," MC Hammer told *People* of his trendy '90s namesake harem pants.

Earning Their Stripes
"I only like comic books; I don't like sports," says DMC (left, with Joseph "Rev Run" Simmons, middle, and Jason "Jam Master Jay" Mizell). "I don't care about basketball, and hip-hop allowed me to have a sneaker deal like Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson and Larry Bird."

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: JANETTE BECKMAN/GETTY IMAGES; STEVE EICHNER/GETTY IMAGES; AL PEREIRA/MICHAEL OCHS ARCHIVES/GETTY IMAGES; JANETTE BECKMAN/GETTY IMAGES; PAUL NATKIN/WIREIMAGE; WIREIMAGE; STEVE GRANITZ/WIREIMAGE; KEVIN MAZUR/WIREIMAGE; (SPRAY PAINT LINE) TUOMAS A. LEHTINEN/GETTY IMAGES; (BACKGROUND) RICHARD NEWSTEAD/GETTY IMAGES

IHG® HOTELS & RESORTS

Guest how you guest

18 HOTEL BRANDS • 6,000 GLOBAL DESTINATIONS • ONE LOYALTY PROGRAM

SIX SENSES · REGENT · INTERCONTINENTAL HOTELS & RESORTS · VIGNETTE COLLECTION · KIMPTON HOTELS & RESTAURANTS · HOTEL INDIGO · VOCO · HUALUXE HOTELS AND RESORTS 華邑酒店及度假村 · CROWNE PLAZA

IBEROSTAR BEACHFRONT RESORTS · EVEN · Holiday Inn Express · Holiday Inn · avid · ATWELL SUITES · STAYBRIDGE SUITES · Holiday Inn Club Vacations · CANDLEWOOD SUITES

IHG ONE REWARDS

Dana Sue (Brooke Elliott), Helen (Heather Headley) and Maddie (JoAnna Garcia Swisher).

Travel Tip Hollywood of the South Tours designs custom itineraries of filming locations.

Covington Town Square

The Historic Newton County Courthouse in downtown can be spotted in many scenes and the opening credits. Smith says the area—dotted with benches and tree-lined walkways—is largely used "as-is" for outdoor shots like this one with Helen and her first love, Ryan (Michael Shenefelt).

Travel Tip Respectful visitors are welcome to take photos out front.

Law Office of Wm. Thomas Craig

In season 1 Maddie, Dana Sue and Helen take over the former home of Miss Frances (Cindy Karr) and turn it into their dream business, the Corner Spa. In reality, the neoclassical building is an attorney's office. Smith notes that Miss Frances's famous bench is only placed out front during filming.

Travel Tip Snap a photo with the mural around the corner—the *Sweet Magnolias* cast is featured!

Mystic Grill

The exterior of Dana Sue's restaurant Sullivan's dates back to 1906 when it was a bank and is now a real spot where fans can dine. The eatery serves modern spins on traditional southern dishes, like sweet tea-brined fried chicken and burgers topped with pimento cheese and fried green tomatoes.

On Location Vacation

Sweet Magnolias in Georgia

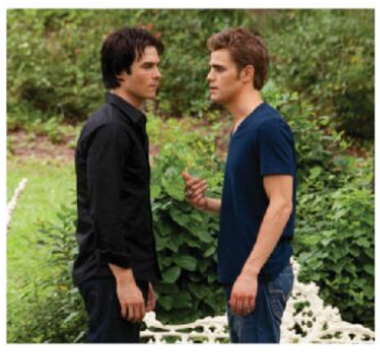
STATELY HOMES AND SOUTHERN CHARM SET THE SCENE FOR SEASON 3

Grab your margaritas and get ready to pour one out! The Sweet Magnolias are back for more small-town drama, friendship and heartbreak in season 3 of the Netflix series, now streaming. Based on the popular book series by Sherryl Woods, the lives of the titular trio of BFFs play out against the backdrop of the idyllic but fictional town of Serenity, S.C. The series is actually filmed about 40 minutes outside Atlanta in the historic hamlet of Covington, Ga., a popular filming spot because of its "picturesque" architecture and quintessential southern style, says location manager Brad Smith. "It's gone from a sleepy little town to a very vibrant community." Fans can walk in the cast's footsteps without leaving downtown or, Smith suggests, book a tour of all the filming spots. —HEDY PHILLIPS

More Covington Onscreen

The town has been the setting for more than 200 shows and movies

In the Heat of the Night
The town square is featured in the '90s crime drama series and is the first Covington set Smith worked on.



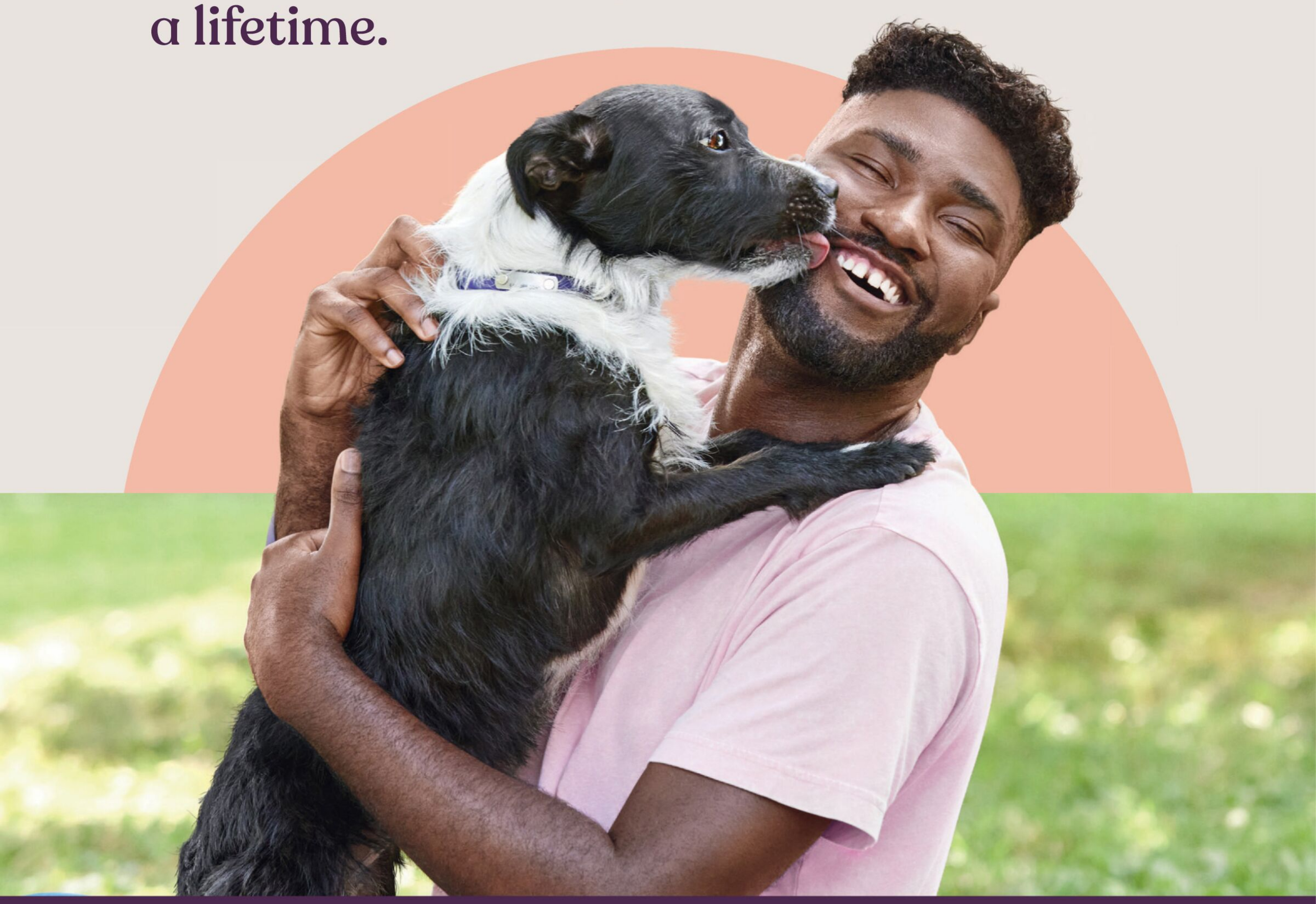
The Vampire Diaries
The teen drama filmed at a local restaurant that later became the Mystic Grill, an homage to the show's fictional eatery.

Remember the Titans
In the 2000 movie, what's now Southern Roots Outfitters was the facade of Hal's Diner.

COUNTERCLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: WILLIAMS PHOTOGRAPHY/SHUTTERSTOCK; RICHARD DUCREE/NETFLIX; NETFLIX; INSETS: (MACDONALD & HEADLEY, ELLIOTT) ELIZA MORSE/NETFLIX(2); (GARCIA SWISHER) NETFLIX; BOTTOM: EVERETT(3)

Help a lost pet get home

Posting a lost pet notice can reunite a family for a lifetime.



PetsAndPeopleTogether.org

ad COUNCIL

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

Maddie's Fund

A Mom's Mission
"He was my whole life," says Vaca (left, at the Texas capitol this April, and, right, with Lopez, her only child, in 2014).

Texas Mom Belinda Vaca

'No One Should Die From Food Allergies'

AFTER HER SON DIED FROM EATING A TAKEOUT TACO THAT CONTAINED PEANUT BUTTER, SHE FOUGHT FOR A LAW TO KEEP OTHERS SAFE

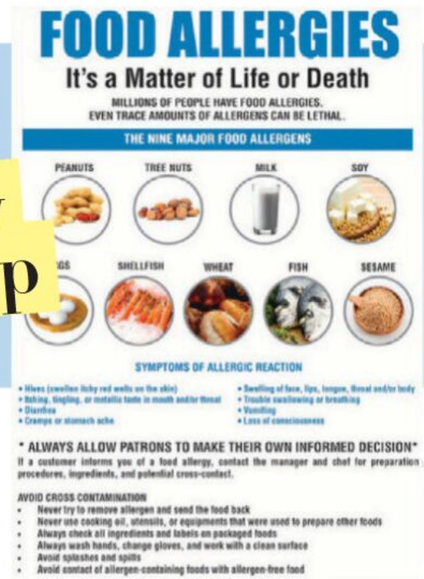
Even as a child, Sergio Lopez took his allergy to peanuts seriously. In school, where he was known as "the peanut boy," he'd remind his teachers to keep nuts out of the classroom. He carried hand wipes everywhere and avoided public toilets for fear of contamination. So in June of 2014, when the 24-year-old ordered a vegetarian taco for lunch at a restaurant in McAllen, Texas, he was typically cautious, asking three times whether the dish contained peanuts. No, he was told, only spices. But less than 12 hours later, Lopez was dead of anaphylaxis: The taco had been made with a sauce containing peanut butter. Confronted later, the restaurant owner said Lopez asked about peanuts—but not peanut butter. "This shouldn't happen," his mother, Belinda Vaca, thought. "There should be a law."

Vaca, 64, a retired IT specialist, spent the next nine years lobbying for just that. In May the Texas state legislature passed the Sergio Lopez Food Allergy Awareness Act. "Belinda showed up to the Capitol every legislative session to fight for this," says state Rep. Philip Cortez, who authored the bill. "Sergio's death could have been prevented. Because of Belinda, other mothers and fathers may not lose their child."

> 'My son is gone, but this is in his honor, to save lives'
> – BELINDA VACA

The law, which goes into effect Sept. 1, 2023, requires Texas restaurants to post food-allergy awareness signs in employee areas (see box, below) and mandates that allergy awareness be part of food handler certification. "It was ignorance," Vaca says of how the restaurant treated the concerns of her son, a musician (he played guitar, cello and bagpipes) who studied engineering at the University of Texas at Brownsville. "Making people aware is my way of dealing with grief," says Vaca, who didn't sue the restaurant that served her son and is pushing for similar laws in other states. "And it's a way to give love to my son." —**EILEEN FINAN WITH REPORTING BY WENDY GROSSMAN KANTOR**

4 Ways the Law Will Help



Awareness
Texas restaurants will be required to hang a poster like this (left) showing major food allergens.

Education
Posters will explain that exposure to food allergens—even via cross-contamination—can be fatal.

Warning Signs
Common symptoms, which include face or throat swelling and itchy skin, must be listed.

When to Act
The signs will inform employees how to respond in the case of an allergy emergency.

COURTESY BELINDA VACA(2)

What to Wear Now

Wide-Leg Jeans

THIS HOT DENIM TREND WILL TAKE YOU FROM SUMMER TO FALL

Cate Blanchett in N.Y.C.

Katie Holmes in Alice + Olivia jeans in N.Y.C.

Jennifer Lopez in L.A.

Yara Shahidi in EB Denim in N.Y.C.

Style Tip! The trouser-like style is most flattering with a high-rise fit.

I-Sea Sunglasses, $48; anthropologie.com

Alex Mill Vest, $145; alexmill.com

Melie Bianco Bag, $150; meliebianco.com

Old Navy Jeans, $45; oldnavy.com

Exclusive discount! Get 20% off this carryall with code 'PEOPLE20' through 9/3

Anne Klein Heels, $89; anneklein.com

WITH A SWEATER-VEST

Balance full bottoms with a preppy fitted knit top. Add classic cap-toe slingback heels.

(OUTFITS & VINCE CAMUTO SHOES) BRIAN HENN(4); (BLANCHETT) GOTHAM/GC IMAGES; (HOLMES) GOTHAM/GC IMAGES; (LOPEZ) THE CELEBRITY FINDER/MEGA; (SHAHIDI) GOTHAM/GC IMAGES

WITH A BUTTON-DOWN

For the perfect casual summer outfit, pair the jeans with a tee and oversize striped shirt plus colorful accessories.

Baublebar Necklace, $48; baublebar.com

On 34th by Macy's Shirt, $50; macys.com

Jockey Tee, $30; jockey.com

American Eagle Jeans, $60; ae.com

Oliver Bonas Bag, $76; oliverbonas.com

Exclusive discount! Get 20% off these shoes with code 'PEOPLE20' through 9/3

SantM Flats, $145; santm.com

Melinda Maria Earrings, $62; melindamaria.com

Club Monaco Top, $150; clubmonaco.com

Gap Jeans, $80; gap.com

Exclusive discount! Get 20% off this bag with code 'PEOPLE20' through 8/27

btb Los Angeles Bag, $165; btblosangeles.com

Vince Camuto Heels, $79; nordstrom.com

WITH A PEPLUM TOP

The flounce-waist style is back and looks fresh with jeans in a sophisticated dark wash.

7 Ingredient Meals!*

Everything Bagel Galette With Eggs & Smoked Salmon

It includes the best elements of a bagel brunch spread but wrapped in an elegant pastry made for sharing

- 1 (14-oz.) pkg. refrigerated piecrusts (2 piecrusts)
- All-purpose flour, for dusting
- 4 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 8 oz. Gruyère cheese, shredded (about 2 cups)
- 1 large egg, beaten, plus 6 large eggs
- 2 Tbsp. everything bagel seasoning
- ¼ tsp. kosher salt
- ¼ tsp. black pepper
- 3 oz. thinly sliced smoked salmon, torn into bite-size pieces
- 2 Tbsp. capers or chopped fresh chives (optional)

1. Preheat oven to 425°. Line a large rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper. Unroll 1 piecrust onto a lightly floured work surface. Place second piecrust on top; gently press down to adhere together. Roll into a 14-inch round. Transfer dough to baking sheet.
2. Spread cream cheese over surface of rolled piecrust, leaving a 2- to 3-inch border. Sprinkle evenly with shredded Gruyère. Lift the outer edges of dough border, and pull up and slightly over the filling, leaving center of galette exposed. Brush top of dough border with beaten egg. Sprinkle brushed border with everything bagel seasoning. Bake in oven until golden, 10 to 12 minutes.
3. Remove galette from oven. Crack remaining 6 eggs, evenly spaced, across the exposed top. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Bake at 425° until egg whites are set but yolks are still runny, 12 to 15 minutes. Remove from oven. Top evenly with smoked salmon; if desired, sprinkle with capers or chives. Slice and serve immediately.

Serves: 6
Active time: 20 minutes
Total time: 45 minutes

*Salt, pepper and olive oil are freebies!

FOOD STYLIST: ANNA HAMPTON; PROP STYLIST: SHELL ROYSTER; INSETS, FROM LEFT: TETRA IMAGES/GETTY IMAGES; ISTOCKPHOTO/GETTY IMAGES(2)

Powerhouse Pantry Staples

They help add slow-cooked flavor to fast-made foods

Applesauce
Add a dollop to pureed soups, barbecue sauce, stir-fry marinades or pancake batter for a touch of natural sweetness.

Capers
The briny buds amp up everything from potato salad to pesto to an everything bagel galette. Use the pickling liquid when a recipe needs a little vinegar.

Tahini
It's not just for hummus. Mix a spoonful of the sesame-seed paste into burger patties, salad dressings and smoothies, or spread on sandwiches in place of mayo.

For more celebrity recipes, visit PEOPLE.COM/FOOD

Photographs by FRED HARDY II

Flank Steak With Charred Scallion & Lime Butter

Keep this compound-butter recipe in your back pocket for busy nights. It turns simple dishes—from grilled chicken and shrimp to seared tofu and steamed vegetables—into something special

- 8 scallions
- ¼ cup toasted sesame oil, divided
- 1 to 1½ lbs. flank steak (about 1-in. thick), trimmed
- 1¼ tsp. kosher salt, divided
- ¾ tsp. black pepper, divided
- ½ cup (4 oz.) unsalted butter, softened
- 2 tsp. finely grated lime zest plus 1 tsp. fresh juice (from 1 [2-oz.] lime)
- 1 tsp. minced garlic
- ¼ tsp. crushed red pepper

1. Trim 6 of the scallions; halve lengthwise. Thinly slice remaining 2 scallions, and set aside.
2. Heat 2 tablespoons of the oil in a large cast-iron skillet over high. Add scallion halves, and cook, stirring often, until charred, about 4 minutes. Transfer scallions to a plate. Reduce heat to medium high.
3. Add remaining 2 tablespoons oil to skillet. Season both sides of steak with 1 teaspoon of the salt and ½ teaspoon of the pepper. Carefully add steak to hot oil in skillet. Cook, turning once, until a thermometer inserted into thickest portion of meat registers 125° to 130° for medium-rare, 8 to 13 minutes, or until desired degree of doneness. Transfer steak to a cutting board, and let rest 10 minutes.
4. Finely chop charred scallions. Place in a medium bowl, and stir in softened butter, lime zest and juice, garlic, red pepper and remaining ¼ teaspoon each salt and pepper
5. Slice steak diagonally against the grain; top with scallion-butter mixture and reserved sliced scallions. Serve immediately.
Serves: 4
Active time: 30 minutes
Total time: 30 minutes

INSETS, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: GETTY IMAGES(2); ISTOCKPHOTO/GETTY IMAGES(2); 500PX/GETTY IMAGES

Quick Ingredient Substitutions

Save yourself an extra trip to the grocery store

Light Brown Sugar
To re-create it, mix together **1 cup granulated sugar** and **2 teaspoons honey or molasses** until combined. For dark brown sugar, use **1 tablespoon honey or molasses.**

Fresh Eggs
When your carton is empty, swap **1 tablespoon mayonnaise** for every egg in recipes for baked goods.

Wine
If you don't want to open a new bottle when you only need a splash, try **1 cup broth** (beef for red wine; chicken for white wine) mixed with **2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice** instead.

7 Ingredient Meals!

Baked Corn-Chip-Crusted Chicken Breasts With Avocado Salsa

It's the ultimate breading shortcut! Using preseasoned corn chips—or potato, tortilla or any variety of chips you have on hand—as a coating keeps the chicken crunchy on the outside and juicy on the inside

- 4 cups corn chips, finely crushed
- 1 Tbsp. chili powder
- 4 (6-oz.) boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- ¾ tsp. kosher salt
- ½ tsp. black pepper
- 3 Tbsp. mayonnaise
- 2 cups salsa verde (from 1 [16-oz.] jar)
- 1 firm-ripe avocado, chopped
- Roughly chopped fresh cilantro, for serving

1. Preheat oven to 350°. In a large shallow bowl, stir together crushed corn chips and chili powder. Place chicken between pieces of plastic wrap, and pound to ½-inch thickness using a meat mallet or rolling pin. Sprinkle evenly with salt and pepper.
2. Lightly brush chicken with mayonnaise on all sides. Press chicken into corn chip mixture to coat on all sides. Transfer chicken to a wire rack placed inside a rimmed baking sheet. Bake chicken in oven until crisp and a thermometer inserted into thickest portion of chicken registers 165°, 15 to 18 minutes.
3. While chicken bakes, stir together salsa and avocado in a small bowl. Remove chicken from oven, and place on plates. Sprinkle with cilantro, and serve immediately with avocado salsa.
Serves: 4 **Active time:** 10 minutes
Total time: 25 minutes

Surprising Ways to Use Soy Sauce

The mighty condiment is packed with deep umami flavor

Brownies
Like salt, soy sauce enhances the flavor of chocolate—but it has a richer essence. It also mixes evenly into batters so no more salty pockets.

Pizza Dough
The sauce adds a mild savory tang in breads that don't need a lot of rise, like pizza or ciabatta. The additional liquid can change the dough's consistency so start with a little, and add more as desired.

Scrambled Eggs
Instead of using water or milk, add a splash of soy sauce. As the eggs cook, the liquid evaporates—which leads to a fluffier scramble—but the seasoning remains.

INSET: ISTOCKPHOTO/GETTY IMAGES

By SONAL DUTT and SABRINA WEISS

ADVERTISEMENT

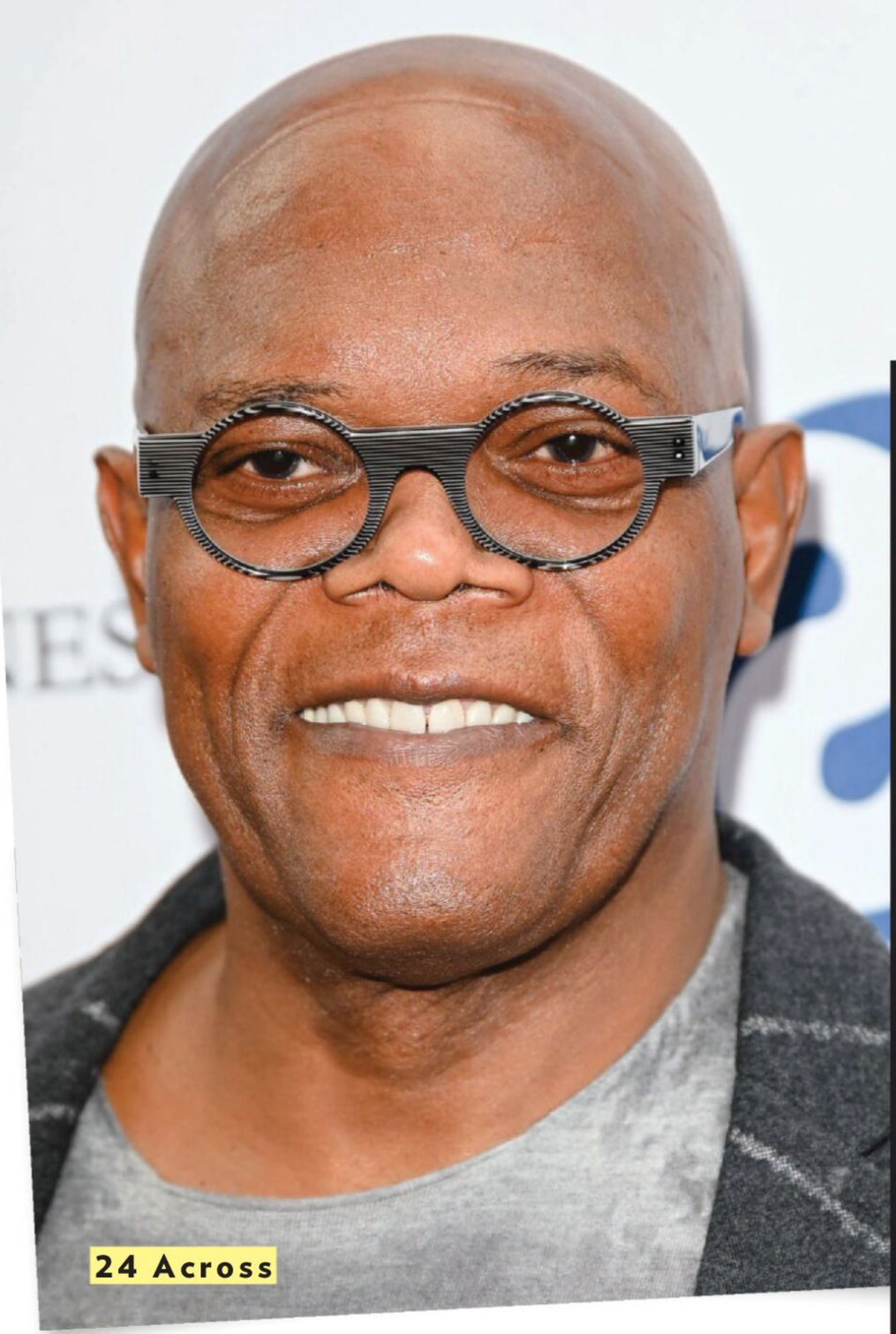
comfort

Kraft
mac & cheese

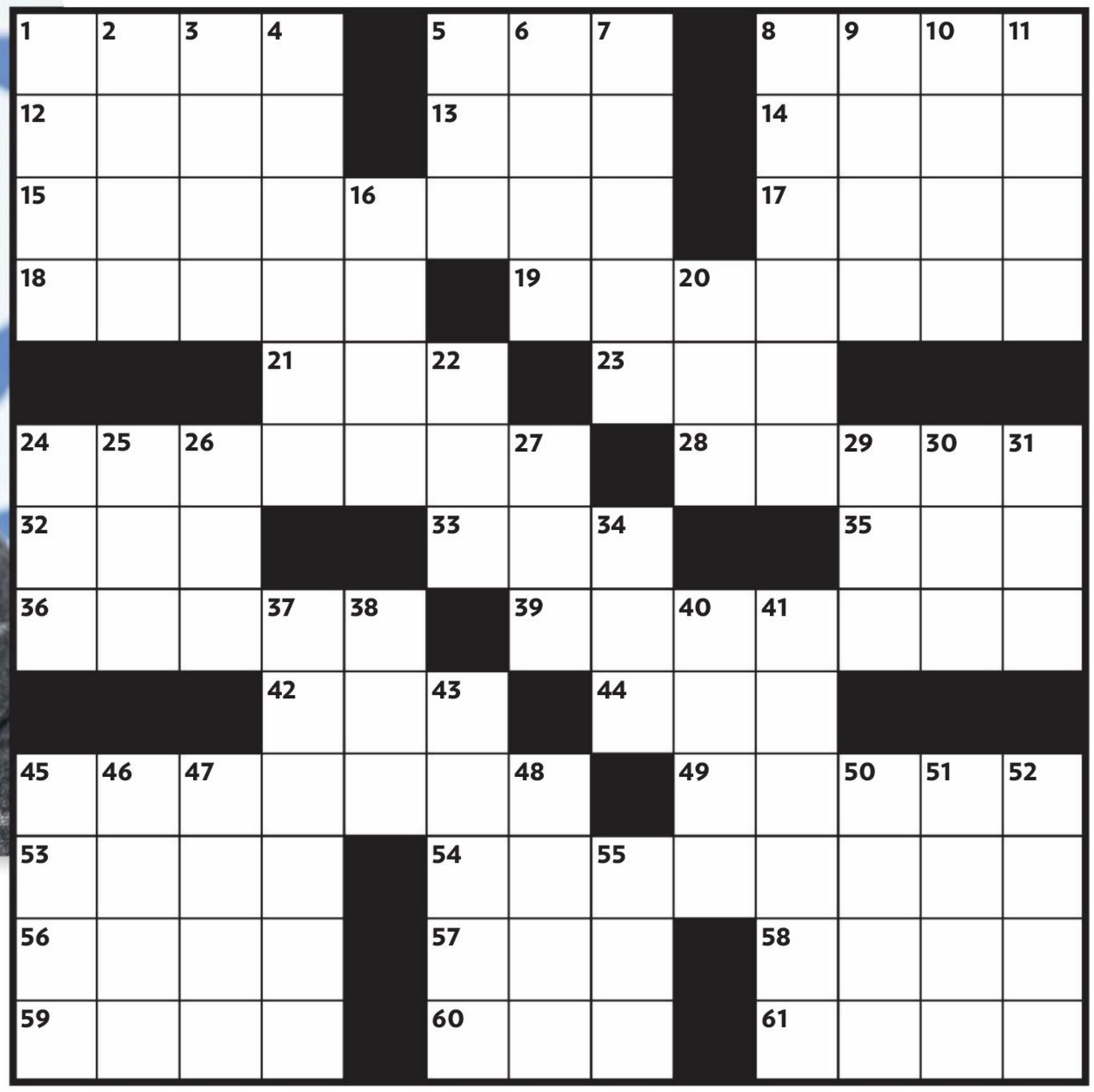
DELUXE
help yourself

DELUXE
PERFECTLY COOKED, CREAMY, CHEESY PASTA.
NOW IN THE FREEZER AISLE.

DELUXE
Kraft
mac & cheese
DELUXE
help yourself



Snakes on a Plane star



across

1 Low-___ diet
5 O.J. Simpson trial judge Lance ___
8 "___ Miner's Daughter"
12 Matty, Felipe or Jesús of baseball
13 Singer ___ Lipa
14 ___ *With an E* (series set at Green Gables)
15 Sci-fi movie franchise with 24 Across as Mace Windu (2 wds.)
17 Nevada gambling city near Lake Tahoe
18 South ___ (*Squid Game* setting)
19 *Pulp* ___ (24 Across's movie)
21 Pop singer ___ Max
23 Take to court
24 He's played Nick Fury in multiple *Avengers* movies (first name + init.)
28 *80 for* ___
32 Tavern beverage
33 *Dancing With the Stars* network
35 At or past the deadline
36 Fred Flintstone's wife
39 Last name of 24 Across
42 Urgent care centers, for short
44 ___ Bennett (Zendaya's *Euphoria* role)
45 Robert Downey Jr. superhero film in which 24 Across appears (2 wds.)
49 Minor deviations
53 Female opera star
54 ___ *Park* (dinosaur movie with 24 Across)
56 Oil org. (inits.)
57 Fuss
58 Pataky of *Fast & Furious* films
59 The Beatles' "Penny ___"
60 Unlocks the door
61 365 days

down

1 Wine barrel
2 "Tall" in Spanish
3 Katy Perry's self-empowerment anthem
4 The "B" in FBI
5 Civil rights pioneer ___ B. Wells
6 Surf and ___
7 "Wonderwall" band
8 24 Across played the title character in 2005's *Coach* ___
9 R.E.M hit "The ___ Love" (2 wds.)
10 The "A" in A.D.
11 Juan Ponce de ___
16 What a surfer catches
20 Young bear
22 Pie ___ mode (2 wds.)
24 Tool with teeth
25 *Beef* star ___ Wong
26 EGOT winner ___ Brooks
27 JFK's VP (inits.)
29 Commercials
30 Singing twosome
31 Japanese currency
34 Automobile
37 *The Phantom* ___ (*Star Wars* movie with 24 Across)
38 Shirtsleeve filler
40 Havana's country
41 *Frasier* star ___ Grammer
43 *Wheel of Fortune* host Pat ___
45 Singing show hosted by Ryan Seacrest, familiarly
46 Morning show host Kelly ___
47 Baking appliance
48 Stocking shade that's skin-colored
50 Bit of land at sea
51 Home to a famed leaning tower
52 A mark left by a wound
55 Singer ___ Orbison

Answers to last week's Puzzler

↓

T	A	B		C	A	S	A		F	L	E	D
A	T	E		A	L	E	X		I	A	G	O
T	O	M		N	O	T	E		E	D	G	E
A	M	Y	P	O	E	H	L	E	R			
		G	I	N			A	I	D	A	N	
S	H	U	N		D	I	O	R		E	L	O
W	E	E	K	E	N	D	U	P	D	A	T	E
I	R	S		L	A	S	T		I	D	O	L
M	E	T	A	L				M	E	L		
			R	E	C	R	E	A	T	I	O	N
M	A	T	S		H	U	R	L		N	B	A
O	R	E	O		E	D	I	E		E	O	S
M	E	A	N		N	E	C	K		S	E	A

DEVIN ALLEN/SOUL B PHOTOS/SHUTTERSTOCK

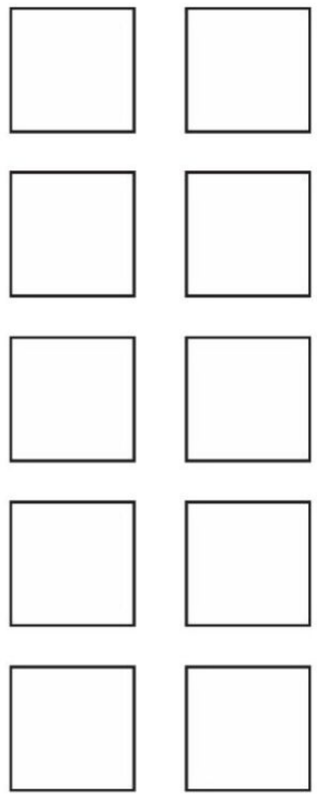
By PATRICK MERRELL

See if you can find the differences in these two pictures

Former *Taxi* costars **Carol Kane, Danny DeVito, Rhea Perlman** and **Tony Danza** reunited on July 31 at the Lincoln Center Claire Tow Theater in New York City (along with actress **Lucy Liu**) on the opening night of the play *Let's Call Her Patty*, to support Perlman, who had a recurring role on the 1978-83 sitcom and stars in the new Off-Broadway production. Perlman and DeVito, who married in 1982, have been separated since 2017.

10

changes to keep score!



1. The glasses in Carol Kane's hand have vanished. **2.** Danny DeVito's glasses are now light blue. **3.** The silver frame behind Rhea Perlman extends farther to the left. **4.** Perlman has an extra necklace around her neck. **5.** The "P" and "A" on the sign have switched places. **6.** The second "T" on the sign is now orange. **7.** The hair of the person to the right of Lucy Liu has disappeared. **8.** Liu's necklace is now pink. **9.** The watch she is wearing has moved up her forearm. **10.** Liu's belt has turned black.

BRUCE GLIKAS/GETTY IMAGES(2)

Laura Linney

THE ACTRESS, 59, STARS IN THE NEW FILM *THE MIRACLE CLUB*

Last moment of pride
Anytime my son [Bennett, 9] is kind to someone, my heart almost explodes. He was at a store, and a pregnant woman went up to my husband [Marc Schauer] and said, "I want you to know he carried my bags for me."

Last impulse purchase
I have a huge books problem. I read one at a time, but I probably have 15 [waiting]. When I finish one, I go around and hold them, and the one that feels right in my hands is the one I start.

Last recurring dream
I'm put in a musical—and I'm not a singer. In one I had to replace Patti LuPone in *Evita*. They were sewing me into the dress, and I kept saying, "I don't sing!"

Last time I cried
This morning I saw a grade school play on Greek myth. It's just amazing to watch young people embrace storytelling and stepping into themselves. I found it incredibly moving.

Last time I had mom brain
It usually has to do with things that shouldn't be worn together, like clashing patterns. My husband will look at me as I'm about to walk out the door and go, "Really?"

Reported by **JULIE JORDAN** *on June 30*

NINO MUNOZ

PEOPLE (ISSN 0093-7673) (August 21, 2023) (Volume 100/Issue 8) is published weekly with combined issues in March and December by TI Gotham Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Meredith Operations Corporation, Principal Office: 225 Liberty St., New York, NY 10281-1008. Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send all UAA to CFS. (See DMM 507.1.5.2); Non-Postal and Military Facilities: Send address corrections to People Magazine PO BOX 37508 Boone, IA 50037-0508. Canada Post Publications Mail Agreement # 40069223. BN# 888381621RT0001. People Weekly, Star Tracks, Picks & Pans and Chatter are trademarks of TI Gotham Inc. © 2022–TI Gotham Inc. All Rights Reserved. Printed in the U.S.A. **CUSTOMER SERVICE AND SUBSCRIPTIONS: For 24/7 service, please use our website: people.com/myaccount. You can also call 1-800-541-9000 or write People Magazine PO Box 37508 Boone, IA 50037-0508.** Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is strictly prohibited. Your bank may provide updates to the card information we have on file. You may opt out of this service at any time. If the Post Office alerts us that your magazine is undeliverable, we have no further obligation unless corrected delivery information is received within two years. ◆◆◆◆◆◆◆

Feed them without holding your breath.

Cesar® Love them back™

©2023 Mars or Affiliates.

my Secret® to 'oh YEAH' fresh

Secret helps eliminate odor instead of just masking it.